

SHOOT!

28p

6th FEBRUARY, 1982

Manchester United
striker Garry Birtles is
harried by Danny Thomas
of Coventry.

Birtles and Stapleton— one of SOCCER'S DEADLY DUOS

ABERDEEN
and **BLACKBURN**
team groups

**WORLD CUP
DRAW**

what
the
stars
say...



Don't blame Barnwell!

WOLVERHAMPTON Wanderers have not won the First Division title for 23 years. Their last F.A. Cup Final victory at Wembley came 22 years ago.

They managed to win the League Cup in 1974 and 1980, but otherwise have done little or nothing to lift the depression shrouding Molineux.

Wolves' singular lack of success is particularly worrying for some of the country's most loyal fans because the club's traditions and standing in modern times suggest they should be among the pacesetters in the First Division.

Unfortunately, historians will blame John Barnwell for Wolves' struggles in the early 1980's. And that belief will be supported by his decision to join the three million unemployed by resigning in January, 1982, after a protracted dispute

SHOOT view!

with chairman Harry Marshall.

But will the record books' conclusions reflect the truth about Wolves' problems? Chances are they will be wildly inaccurate.

The club's decline is a combination of bad direction at boardroom level, bad management long before Barnwell's arrival, and sub-standard performances on the pitch.

No single person is to blame and certainly not John Barnwell. It is a combination of factors, which put together combine to make a horrendous package guaranteed to sink any ship.

One of the crosses John Barnwell endured was to have to parry boardroom pressure to sell £1.5 million striker Andy Gray.

"You don't sell your best player," argued Barnwell. The soccer world sympathised, but in a difficult economic climate could the board be blamed for trying to recoup the thousands spent on building one of the finest stands in the First Division?

The board might question their wisdom in building it. They might also ask themselves whether they have been entirely fair in making Barnwell the scapegoat for most of what has gone wrong of late.

AFTER qualifying for Spain by the skin of our teeth the pressure was off us. We weren't really expected to achieve much in the Finals — as soon as the draw was made I saw 'easy' headlines and heard mutterings about how we'll be in the Second Round without many problems.

True, things could have been worse for England. And I'd say we have the best chance of the three Home countries of advancing to the second phase and towards World Cup glory.

But it certainly won't be easy, not even against Kuwait, of whom I have first hand experience.

I played against their national team for West Brom last year in Kuwait and we drew 1-1.

The Kuwaitis weren't a bad team at all, and anyone who is thinking in terms of a 6-0 win for us in Bilbao had better think again.

They're coached by Brazilians and this shows in their play. They place the emphasis on skill and I remember in particular a big centre-forward who was very dangerous on the counter-attack.

They were well-organised in defence, getting men behind the ball quickly.

On the debit side, they aren't as fit as



won in Basle boredom would have been easier to accept!

If we play as well as we can, we're capable of reaching the Second Round. Scotland have the hardest task, facing Brazil and the USSR, but had we been in their position I'd feel reasonably confident of going through.

You have to. Scotland must hope to beat one of their opponents by catching them on a bad day and playing out of their skins themselves.

Northern Ireland may just pull off a surprise. They have nothing to lose and there's always a shock or two in the World Cup Finals.

Our game against France will, hopefully, be one of the most memorable of the Finals. The stadium in Bilbao will be packed with fans from both countries — and it would be nice if the match could pass without incident in that respect.

The San Mames Stadium is tight and compact, rather English and the atmosphere will be electric.

I'm glad we're not playing France in a friendly beforehand. Players may have been too worried about the opposition, or about giving something away that their own performance suffers. Better to meet the French 'fresh' in Bilbao.

Ron Greenwood will be trying to get a settled side in the games we have before the Finals, hoping one or two players can emerge to establish themselves.

'ENGLAND HAVE BEST CHANCE OF GLORY'

Europeans and can be a bit reckless in the tackle. The Kuwait players also tended to ball-watch, and if we keep possession we should be able to out-wit them.

I'm glad we're playing them last and not first, when they'll be buzzing.

I've been talking to Frank Stapleton about France — he played for the Republic of Ireland against them and he says they have some outstanding individuals, notably Michel Platini, but if the team sticks together, as the Irish did, the French can be overrun.

Czechoslovakia have a good record in the last two European Championships, but the World Cup is different and I wonder whether England, with huge support, will cope better on a neutral ground.

I have a lot of experience of playing in Spain, mainly in pre-season tournaments in places such as Alicante, Madrid and Seville. I've always enjoyed playing over there and the pitches, especially, were superb.

From what I've seen on TV our hotel and training facilities are first-class. There's also a beach close at hand.

Boredom is the big worry. I noticed this last summer when we toured Switzerland and Hungary — although the defeat in Switzerland made it a long week before Budapest. If we'd



BRYAN ROBSON
Writes for you

The bad weather hasn't helped players to enhance their World Cup chances, as few have been able to string many games together.

Now the snow seems to have gone (famous last words) maybe we can get down to business in the League ... and the World Cup.

Bryan Robson



Kuwait's Abdullah Maayooof passes the ball during the World Cup tie against China.



78 HOURS OF SOCCER!

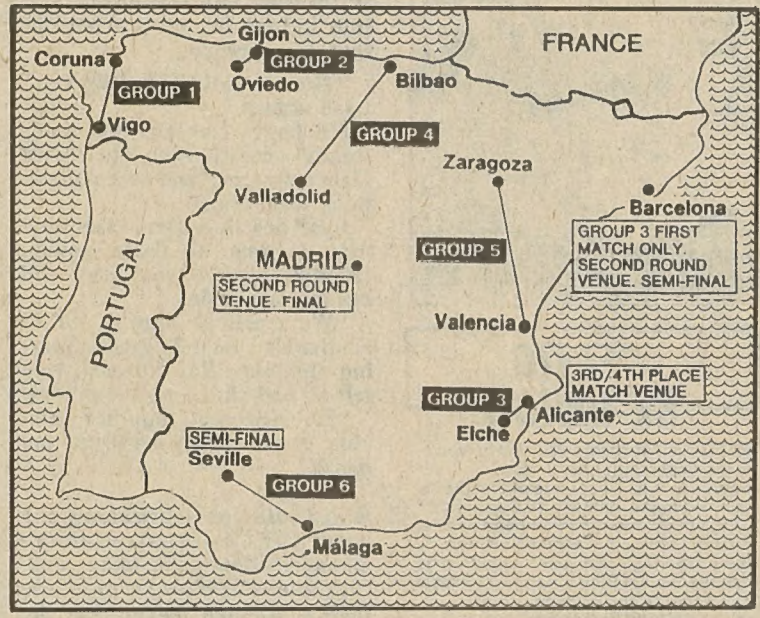
TWENTY four countries will play 52 games in 17 stadiums in 14 Spanish cities in June and July. The Finalists are awarded two points for a win and one for a draw in all group games; goal-difference will decide if teams finish equal. If goal-difference is equal the team who have scored the more goals will go through — if this fails lots will be drawn.

The top two teams in each group go into the Second Round, where they are divided into four groups of three teams like this:

- Group A: First in Groups One and Three, plus the second in Group Six.
- Group B: First in Groups Two and Four, plus the second in Group Five.
- Group C: First in Group Six, plus the second in Groups One and Three.
- Group D: First in Group Five, plus the second in Groups Two and Four.

The top side in each Second Round Group goes into the Semi-Finals — the winners of Group A v the winners of Group C and the winners of Group B v the winners of Group D.

Losing Semi-Finalists play for the third place spot.



WHAT THEY SAID

Captain Kevin Keegan thinks the draw was kind to England. "We came out of it quite well. The great bonus for us is playing Kuwait last. By then their adrenalin will have stopped flowing."

Danny McGrain, Scotland captain, said: "We were prepared for the worst before the draw — now we must hope for the best. The rumours I heard about being paired with Brazil bore fruit. The Soviet Union are an unexpected handicap — our best hope is catching them on an off day."

Northern Ireland manager Billy Bingham wasn't too unhappy at being in the same group as hosts Spain. "We must beat Yugoslavia," he says. "If we do that we're in with a chance. I'm certainly not overawed by Spain."

Corals betting: 9-4 Brazil, 5-1 West Germany, 8-1 Spain, 8-1 Argentina, 12-1 Italy, 14-1 England, Russia, 25-1 Belgium, Austria, 28-1 Scotland, 100-1 Northern Ireland.

Here are the records of the three U.K. qualifiers against the countries they are grouped with in Spain (England have never played Kuwait, Scotland have never played New Zealand, Northern Ireland have never played Honduras):

	P	W	D	L	F	A
England v France.....	18	13	2	3	57	24
England v Czech.....	9	5	2	2	17	11
Scotland v Brazil.....	5	0	2	3	1	5
Scotland v USSR.....	2	0	0	2	0	3
N Ireland v Spain.....	5	0	2	3	4	12
N Ireland v Yug.....	2	1	0	1	1	1

One man who WON'T be helping England is Scot Dave Mackay — and not just because he doesn't want to assist the Auld Enemy. Mackay coaches the Arabi Sporting Club in Kuwait, but the club's owner, Sheik Ahmad A-Sabah says: "If he gives Ron Greenwood any information on our players I'll sack him. It was our dream to play England in Spain and we think we can qualify for the Second Round — hopefully with England. We can't offer financial incentives to our players as they are so rich already. They will play for pride as representatives of the smallest nation ever to qualify for the Finals."

Yugoslavia plan to include Manchester United reject Nikki Jovanovic in their World Cup squad. Jovanovic joined United from Red Star Belgrade two seasons ago and if the defender can secure a loan to a club back home — Buducnost are said to be interested — national manager Miljan Miljanic will give him the nod. "Nikki is indispensable," Miljanic said, "but he needs to be playing first team football regularly."

Jock Stein says Scotland aren't in an easy group — and his Soviet Union counterpart, Konstantin Beskov, agrees. "It isn't easy," he said, "although it isn't any more difficult than the others. If we have the strongest team and play to our capacity we'll make the second phase." Lev Yashin, the former USSR goalkeeper, said: "Scotland have several players of outstanding skill and experience. I think the group will be very close."

THE DRAW

- Group One

Italy

Poland

Peru

Cameroon
- Group Four

ENGLAND

Czechs.

France

Kuwait
- Group Two

W. Germany

Austria

Chile

Algeria
- Group Five

Spain

Yugoslavia

N. IRELAND

Honduras
- Group Three

Argentina

Hungary

Belgium

El Salvador
- Group Six

Brazil

USSR

SCOTLAND

New Zealand

Group		Venue	Time			
MONDAY, JUNE 13						
3 Argentina	v Belgium	Barcelona	8.00	2 Algeria	v Austria	Oviedo 5.15
				4 France	v Kuwait	Valladolid 5.15
				5 Honduras	v N. Ireland	Zaragoza 9.00
MONDAY, JUNE 14						
1 Italy	v Poland	Vigo	5.15			
6 Brazil	v USSR	Seville	9.00			
TUESDAY, JUNE 15						
1 Peru	v Cameroon	Coruna	5.15	1 Peru	v Poland	Coruna 5.15
3 Hungary	v El Salvador	Elche	9.00	3 Belgium	v Hungary	Elche 9.00
6 Scotland	v N. Zealand	Malaga	9.00	6 USSR	v Scotland	Malaga 9.00
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16						
2 W. Ger.	v Algeria	Gijon	5.15	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23		
4 England	v France	Bilbao	5.15	1 Italy	v Cameroon	Vigo 5.15
5 Spain	v Honduras	Valencia	9.00	3 Argentina	v El Salvador	Alicante 9.00
THURSDAY, JUNE 17						
2 Chile	v Austria	Oviedo	5.15	6 Brazil	v N. Zealand	Seville 9.00
4 Czechs	v Kuwait	Valladolid	5.15	THURSDAY, JUNE 24		
5 Yugoslavia	v N. Ireland	Zaragoza	9.00	2 Algeria	v Chile	Oviedo 5.15
FRIDAY, JUNE 18						
1 Italy	v Peru	Vigo	5.15	4 France	v Czechs	Valladolid 5.15
3 Argentina	v Hungary	Alicante	9.00	5 Honduras	v Yugoslavia	Zaragoza 9.00
6 Brazil	v Scotland	Seville	9.00	FRIDAY, JUNE 25		
SATURDAY, JUNE 19						
1 Poland	v Cameroon	Coruna	5.15	2 W. Ger.	v Austria	Gijon 5.15
3 Belgium	v El Salvador	Elche	9.00	4 England	v Kuwait	Bilbao 5.15
6 USSR	v N. Zealand	Malaga	9.00	5 Spain	v N. Ireland	Valencia 9.00
SUNDAY, JUNE 20						
2 W. Ger.	v Chile	Gijon	5.15	SECOND ROUND		
4 England	v Czechs	Bilbao	5.15	Monday, June 28 to Monday, July 5 at Madrid and Barcelona. Six matches in each city.		
5 Spain	v Yugoslavia	Valencia	9.00	THURSDAY, JUNE 21		
MONDAY, JUNE 21						
				TUESDAY, JUNE 22		

BILL TAYLOR TRIBUTE

THE full England team will play in a testimonial match for the late Bill Taylor, at Maine Road, Manchester, on February 9 (7.30pm).

Manchester City will provide the opposition. Proceeds from the game will go to dependants of Bill Taylor.

Bill, senior coach to manager Ron Greenwood, died suddenly in December. He served Manchester City for more than two years as chief coach to manager Tony Book. He later joined Oldham Athletic, working as assistant manager to Jimmy Frizzell.

JOINING ALBION — A MISTAKE

JOHN DEEHAN has finally made his break with Midland soccer following his move to Norwich City from West Bromwich Albion.

He said: "Looking back it was not a good move for me from Aston Villa to Albion."

"I should have gone outside the area and made a completely fresh start, as I'm doing with Norwich."

"I don't think I did myself justice with Albion. At Norwich I'm hoping that I can recapture my best form and put the club back into a challenging position."



The wonder of Willie

WILLIE YOUNG, Nottingham Forest's new central defender, is more skilful than most football fans realise.

Peter Shilton, the former Arsenal star's team-mate at Forest, says Young reminds him of Larry Lloyd, who enjoyed an outstanding career at the City Ground.

"Larry was looked upon as little more than a ball-winner when he was with Liverpool, Coventry and Forest, but there were times when he produced unbelievable flashes of creative skill," says Shilton.

"It's the same with Willie. His build — he stands 6ft 3ins and weighs more than 12 stone — makes him look rather ungainly and clumsy but, take it from me, he's extremely deceptive in this respect."

Shilton also gives a vote of confidence to Justin Fashanu, Forest's £1 million replacement for Trevor Francis.

"I don't think I've ever seen a centre-forward of his age (20) who has excited me more."

Ask Young and Fashanu for their opinion of Shilton and they will tell you that he is the greatest goalkeeper in the world.



CELTIC RE-UNION

SCOTLAND supremo Jock Stein won't be the only member of Celtic's magnificent half-back line of the 1950's involved in the 1982 World Cup Finals.

Big Jock's one-time Parkhead partner, Bertie Peacock, the former Northern Ireland manager, has been called-up by Irish team-chief Billy Bingham to assess the strengths and weaknesses of Ireland's World Cup opponents.

Incidentally, both Bingham and Peacock starred in Northern Ireland's last Finals' appearance, when they reached the Quarter-Finals, in 1958.

DONACHIE'S PAIN

NORWICH full-back Willie Donachie (right) is glad to be suffering the pain of readjusting to the English Second Division after just one summer season in America.

"But it's great to be back," says the former Scottish international defender who ended a 12-year career at Maine Road when Manchester City let him go last March.

"Obviously I had hoped to return to the First Division but Norwich are like a First Division club. The whole set-up is first class and I have really enjoyed it."

Contrast

"But I have needed to adjust considerably. I had never played in the Second Division before and I found it contrasting — one week we play teams like Derby, who are not long down from the top flight and give you a bit of time on the ball, then we come up against another team promoted from the Third Division who are around your ankles snapping at you every minute — but it is all good experience."

"The English League is as good as any in the world and a real challenge."

'BONDS STAYS!'

declares West Ham boss John Lyall

THE arrival at West Ham of Scottish Under-21 star Neill Orr casts a doubt over Billy Bonds' future at Upton Park.

But the West Ham captain (left) can take heart from manager John Lyall's assurance that £400,000 Orr, (right) the former Morton defender, will be given time to settle into The Hammers' system before he gains a regular first team place.

"There's a lot left in Billy yet," Lyall argues.

He hopes that Orr will study Bonds' contribution to West Ham's system "and learn something from him."

Lyall describes Orr in this way: "He is one of those young, talented players you pray will become available."

"We watched him in all of Scotland's Under-21 games, playing alongside Ray Stewart, who felt he had all the right qualities."

"He represents another valuable asset, adding strength and depth."

● Sad note from the Scotland end about Orr's departure. Morton's manager Benny Rooney said: "It's a terrible blow for us to lose such a talented player. But the financial crisis hitting us because of the bad weather has forced us to sell."



★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
★ MANCHESTER UNITED manager ★
★ Ron Atkinson is in no doubt he ★
★ made the right decision to offer ★
★ Steve Coppell a new five-year ★
★ contract. ★
★ Coppell was far from fit when he ★
★ played against Everton but ★
★ volunteered to replace Lou Macari ★
★ at a moment's notice. ★
★ Handicapped by a knee injury, he ★
★ went close to scoring three times ★
★ and played a part in Frank ★
★ Stapleton's equaliser. ★
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



Cheeky Thompson

THE first book about the 1982 World Cup will be out on March 1... more than three months before the competition starts.

It's a book with a difference compiled by Hunter Davies, who wrote *The Glory Game* eight years ago, a close look at his first love, Tottenham Hotspur.

"I was still awake at four in the morning after we'd qualified for Spain," says Davies. "I wanted to do a book. 15 publishers turned me down, but eventually I found one."

"I've sent questionnaires to the 40 players I think Ron Greenwood will announce in his preliminary squad for Spain, asking things like business interests, value of house (Phil Thompson replied '★★★ cheeky') and politics."

"Glenn Hoddle declared himself to be a Liberal while Garry Birtles, I think, is dabbling with the SDP."

"Ron Greenwood has been most helpful. I've also asked many personalities the team they'd pick for the Finals."

"So far Phil Thompson is in every team, while Bryan Robson and Kevin Keegan are in all but one."



AVI COHEN, after 18 unhappy months at Liverpool, has now returned to his native Israel.

The defender joined The Reds from Maccabi for £200,000 but never fitted in at Anfield. Now after making only 18 senior appearances, despite tempting offers from European clubs, Cohen has gone home — for £50,000 less than Liverpool paid for him.

'MY FEAR'

— KENNY HIBBITT

KENNY HIBBITT wants to know whether he has a future at Wolverhampton Wanderers. His contract expires in six months time and he fears he could be axed before the start of next season.

Hibbitt (below) was sidelined for more than ten weeks after surgery on a knee injury, but is now hoping to win a regular place in the first team.

John Barnwell's recent resignation as boss has done nothing to boost his confidence.

Says Hibbitt, who has played more than 200 League games for the club: "I hope I figure in Wolves' plans, but if not I don't want the management to wait until July to tell me.

"I have to think of security for my family and myself. It is an unsettling time at the moment but if Wolves want me to stay, I will give them 100 per cent."



Brave Lee rejects contract



Brum kill 'Dad's Army' image

BIRMINGHAM CITY manager Jim Smith is earning a reputation for possessing one of the smoothest tongues in football.

He is persuading many of the young stars at St. Andrews to sign long contracts with the First Division club in the hope of stabilising the future.

First teamers Kevin Dillon, Kevan Broadhurst, Tony Coton, Mark Dennis and Ian Handysides (above) have all been secured on lengthy agreements.

It is a tribute to Smith's managerial skills and the club's ambitions that many of the young stars are prepared to stay for a long period.

In the past Birmingham have suffered when such talent as Trevor Francis, Kenny Burns, Bob Latchford and Joe Gallagher have been lured to other clubs, to Brum's detriment.

Smith says: "It is very encouraging. These young lads are the present, and the future. We must start to build around them."

Birmingham appear to have lost their "Dad's Army" image for ever thanks to Jim Smith's winning ways.

THE unmarried ranks at Ipswich were depleted even further recently when Scottish striker Alan Brazil staged his own Match of the Day and married local girl Jill Davis.

Now only two members of the Ipswich first team — defenders Steve McCall and Russell Osman — can claim to be bachelors.

Incidentally, Alan was taking no chances that the ring would go missing. It was in the safe hands of goalkeeper Paul Cooper, who was best man!

PRESTON'S new manager Gordon Lee (right) has resisted efforts by the club's chairman to get him to sign a contract.

Lee, who turned down 20 job offers after receiving the sack from Everton, will try to steer the Third Division club away from the relegation zone without the protection of a contract.

He explained: "I told the chairman I did not want a contract because the position the club is in is so serious that I cannot really look beyond the end of the season. I feel it is best to see how things go.

"I do not want the public to think it is my intention to leave, because that is not the case, but I cannot predict the future."



Lee's sole ambition is survival this season, promotion next.

"Like Tommy Docherty my dream is to see the club get into the First Division which they left in 1961 and recapture the glory days they last knew when Tommy himself and Tom Finney were in the side."

Brave words from a brave manager.

HATTERS TOP THE LOT

LUTON TOWN are the only outstanding team in the Second Division according to Oldham Athletic defender Kenny Clements.

One of the big success stories in Oldham's rise to a promotion placing, Clements says: "Luton are strong all round but teams like Barnsley and Sheffield Wednesday who are also well up the table have a few good players but are weak at the back."

Former Manchester City star Clements cost Oldham £200,000 two years ago when they could have had him for nothing. He recalls: "I went to Oldham as a junior but they sent me away saying that I didn't have enough pace and suggested I try a lower Division club. Instead I joined Manchester City and when Jimmy Frizzell signed me here he said he wanted me because I was so quick!"

Clements says: "Frizzell should be a top manager of a First Division club. He makes shrewd buys for peanuts and his man-management qualities are great."

Briefly

● Pat Jennings has played 36 of his 89 full Northern Ireland internationals at Windsor Park.

But, incredible as it may seem, the big 'keeper's mid-term friendly outing for Arsenal against Glentoran, at the Oval, was his first club game (other than testimonial appearances) in his native Ulster since turning out for Watford, his first Football League club, against Newry Town, at the Showgrounds, way back in August, 1963.

● There is a popular story doing the rounds that Sheffield Wednesday manager Jack Charlton invited a friend to have lunch with him after a fishing expedition.

You can imagine the friend's surprise when big Jack bought him a hot pie from a baker's!

● A revolutionary closed circuit television system, costing almost £60,000, has been launched at Aston Villa as a prototype for what might become standard equipment at major British sporting centres.

The system should bring safety back to soccer. Hooligans will be spotted faster by the police.

● Middlesbrough midfielder Bobby Thomson has a happy knack of scoring debut goals. The Scot made a name in this way for St. Johnstone and Morton before he crossed over the border in a £175,000 transfer last September.

Thomson scored on his League Cup debut against Plymouth Argyle and, for good measure, was on target against Queens Park Rangers in his first F.A. Cup appearance.

● Many people are in favour of a winter shutdown — others aren't so convinced.

I'll leave you to make up your own mind about a possible winter break in January with this statistic: over the past five years 570 games have been played on Saturdays during that month — and 220 postponed, more than a third.

● Ian Banks, Barnsley's midfield star, has been chosen Robinson's Barley Water "Young Player of the Month".

Bobby Collins, the former Leeds United, Celtic and Scotland forward and one of Robinson's panellists, says: "He reminds me very much of a young Bobby Charlton. He can beat people both ways and hit shots with both feet from 40 yards. Leeds United were talking about £250,000 for him. He's worth double."



● Simon Stainrod (above), Queens Park Rangers' high scoring striker, has launched a personal campaign to win a place in England's World Cup squad.

Stainrod, the former Oldham and Sheffield United striker, collects antiques, rock records and goals with equal enthusiasm. He is arguably the most skilful striker in the Second Division.

**PETER WITHE
& GARY SHAW**
(ASTON VILLA)

THE 38 League goals these two strikers scored between them last season represented more than 50 per cent of the total that won Aston Villa the League Championship.

Withe, one of the most travelled centre-forwards in the League with seven clubs now under his belt, provided the perfect foil for young Shaw.

Withe is a superb header of a ball, strikes fear into defenders through his aggressive style and rarely receives the credit he deserves for his footwork. Shaw is blessed with fluid skills, an instinct for a chance and explosive finishing.

But Villa's struggles to live up to last season's form is just as much the result of the Withe-Shaw partnership... because it has spluttered. Perhaps too much happened to Shaw too soon. The ability is still there, but the goals have dried up. And Withe's mid-season suspension was a further hitch to their potential England partnership.

Withe and Shaw have developed a wonderful understanding, with the big striker nodding chances down from beyond the far post and laying balls back despite the clattering of close-marking defenders, and Shaw swooping quickly on to half-chances in crowded areas.

**DAVID CROSS
& PAUL GODDARD**
(WEST HAM UNITED)

WHEN David Cross was signed from West Bromwich Albion, he was known for his heading ability rather than his dexterity of foot. When Paul Goddard arrived from Queens Park Rangers he was the non-headlined half of the Clive Allen-Goddard striking show at Loftus Road.

Today both are accomplished strikers of the highest order and

They spell double trouble for defenders **DEADLY DUOS**

AS defenders and defensive formations have reached frightening heights of efficiency over the past ten years, so strikers have had to seek new ways of maintaining their goalscoring averages.

The sad truth is that, overall, they have failed. The number of goals scored in a season during any of the past ten pales in comparison with the goal statistics from former eras.

But football today is fas-

ter, more scientific and simply not geared to individual goal-hunters. We appear to have lost the Nat Lofthouse, Jackie Milburn, John Charles, Bobby Smith characters — the centre-forwards who often went it alone, through the middle, hoping to feed off crosses from two wingers.

The main reason is that the modern game is much tighter. Defences are organised units. The gaps they leave are smaller and

remain open for no more than a matter of seconds. Marking is tight and it requires an all too rare talent to succeed as a striker without a partner.

The modern game is complex, but in terms of goals, it is all about the twin-strikers, the men who hunt in pairs.

Here we look at six of the best, analyse their style and their strengths, reveal where they may be failing and elect SHOOT'S own top striking partnership.

**FRANK STAPLETON
& GARRY BIRTLES**
(MANCHESTER UNITED)

FRANK Stapleton and Garry Birtles deserve tremendous praise for the way they have established a dangerous working partnership in so short a time.

Stapleton, a key member of the Republic of Ireland's international team, arrived from Arsenal with a reputation as one of the best centre-forwards in Europe and car-

rying three F.A. Cup Final medals and a Cup-Winners' Cup medal as evidence.

Birtles was already at the peak of a nightmare, having joined United from Nottingham Forest last season a full England international and European Cup Final hero, only to hit the worst run of scoring form in his career.

But the initial doubts were quickly dispelled as Stapleton and Birtles both began scoring with frightening regularity and United moved to the top of the First Division.

There is no doubt that United's

Peter Withe and Gary Shaw (below) were chiefly responsible for Villa's Championship success last season. This term it is the turn of West Ham strikers Paul Goddard and David Cross (right) to enjoy the glory.





Garry Birtles (left) watches as team-mate Frank Stapleton goes close for Manchester United against Brighton.

position as serious challengers for the League Championship is due largely to the work of the two front strikers. Stapleton is naturally right-sided, Birtles works off his left; both players can operate deep, involving themselves in general build-up play and both have revealed an unselfish streak which has led to creating goals for each other.

STEVE MORAN & KEVIN KEEGAN (SOUTHAMPTON)

THE combination of England's vastly experienced captain, and the youngster who was first spotted by Lawrie McMenemy playing in tennis shoes on a mud-heap, is rapidly developing into one of the best in the League. Keegan has recaptured his scoring form, greatly helped by consistency from the penalty spot, and Moran is displaying the pace, sharpness, courage and finishing of a future international. Although lacking in height, this duo spells trouble for any defence because both players are so difficult to mark and so adept at turning close-markers.

Keegan is clearly helping Moran at every turn. Moran, who only arrived on the First Division scene last season with 21 goals, is proving that he was no one-season wonder. Both players have scored spectacular goals this season and playing in front of a less leaky defence would lift Southampton to the very top of the table. Keegan, always a marked man because of his reputation, is enjoying the fact that Moran is quickly acquiring a similar reputation and therefore attracting closer attention. With their ability to find space behind defences and their sharpness in front of goal, this partnership could spell real glory for Saints.

STEVE ARCHIBALD & GARTH CROOKS (SPURS)

AS Spurs marched away with the F.A. Cup last season, team-mates and fans alike were quick to praise the important part played in that success by Steve Archibald and Garth Crooks. Archibald, signed from Aberdeen, and Crooks, from Stoke

Kevin Keegan and Steve Moran (left) have formed a prolific partnership at Southampton, while the goals of Garth Crooks and Steve Archibald (below) have helped Spurs to great things, including last season's F.A. Cup.



Alan Sunderland misses Frank Stapleton's contribution, but has struck up a new act with Graham Rix at Arsenal.

City, exploded as a partnership and struck fear into every defence they faced. Speed is their main strength; sharpness of reaction, speed of thought and quality finishing. At the end of their memorable season Archibald had scored 25 goals in all competitions and Crooks 22. But this season started badly for both players, and the duo have struggled to recapture their edge. Crooks missed the start of the campaign through injury and when he returned he found a blunted Archibald struggling with ankle trouble. One cannot doubt the quality of this duo, always remembering the world class service they receive from Ossie Ardiles and Glenn Hoddle. But they lack menace in the air and are not physically equipped to knock defences about and create mistakes. Theirs is a more washish danger and while they will no doubt regain their edge, Spurs' title hopes will suffer until they do.

ALAN SUNDERLAND & GRAHAM RIX (ARSENAL)

FRANK Stapleton's transfer to Manchester United broke up one of the best striking partnerships in Arsenal's history, that of the big Irishman and Alan Sunderland. And when Arsenal's attempts to sign a replacement stuttered, it came as something of a surprise when the enterprising Terry Neill and Don Howe paired Sunderland with Graham Rix. Rix was considered the perfect replacement for Liam Brady. But his skill, vision and dangerous left foot have all combined to produce a surprisingly successful front-runner.

Sunderland and Rix possess skill and pace in abundance. But they lack physical power and height, something painfully evident as Arsenal, for reasons best known to themselves, persisted in supplying two of the League's smallest strikers with a stream of high crosses and long high punts from the back. Nevertheless, Arsenal have achieved an admirable run despite talk of a 'crisis' and Sunderland and Rix have played their part. They will never be a prolific scoring duo, but their ability on the ball and their skill in build-up play makes them dangerous in terms of interchanging with midfield players, pulling defenders out of position and laying on chances for other players.

United's twosome tops

WEIGHING up all the partnerships, and taking into consideration all the aspects of their respective teams, our vote must go to Stapleton and Birtles. The Manchester United pair have achieved considerable success in a team greatly changed since the arrival of manager Ron Atkinson. Birtles has overcome a personal crisis of confidence yet never hid during his misery and earned the respect and patience of the fans because of his attitude. Stapleton replaced the immensely popular Joe Jordan and won over the fans in a matter of games. Both players have years on their side; both possess a great variety of personal strengths — height, strength on the ball, finishing power, heading ability, pace — and they have adjusted to each other, and their new team-mates so quickly that their partnership can only get better.



What now for Anderson and Owen?

ENGLAND's qualification for the World Cup Finals in Spain threatens to pose an unexpected problem for a number of top managers!

It was widely believed that victory over Hungary at Wembley, and the assurance of qualification for the first time since 1962, would be a massive injection of incentive to the nation's top players.

But what many managers did not anticipate is the current number of players who are worrying that unless they are playing for one of the League's top half-dozen teams, their international dreams may become nightmares.

Two top First Division stars who have revealed just such fears are Viv Anderson of Nottingham Forest and Gary Owen of West Bromwich Albion.

'Disappointed'

Anderson, already capped by England eight times, says: "I was obviously disappointed at not being part of the England set-up for the Hungary match.

"At the time I just wanted England to win and reach Spain, but now I must aim to get back into the England squad as quickly as possible. How I go about that is in my own hands."

Anderson is in a position to exercise his freedom of contract option at the end of the season, and that could mean leaving Forest, where he has won a hatful of medals, to play abroad.

Forest manager Brian Clough recognises the danger signs and says: "He is the best full-back in the country at the moment and I want him to stay with us."

It remains to be seen if continuing his career with Forest is

part of Anderson's plans to achieve this aim.

And a similar situation besets Owen, rapidly becoming a record-breaking performer for the Under-21 side.

"I will be 24 by the time the World Cup Finals come around," he says, "and by then I believe I will have gained enough experience to get into the squad."



Viv Anderson (above) and Gary Owen (right) are both anxious to wear England colours in Spain.

"But it is not easy to be noticed on a consistent basis when playing for a team like West Brom.

"No disrespect, but if your team is not in the top half of the table, you do not get the same exposure as, say, playing for Liverpool, Manchester United or one of the London clubs.

"I have got to make sure I play well enough for a consistent period to catch Ron Greenwood's eye. I believe I am playing as well now as any time since I came to The Hawthorns.

"Martin Jol's arrival has created a better balance in midfield and this allows me more freedom to express myself."

Owen's contract, like

Anderson's, expires at the end of the season.

The temptation will be there, but he gives a hopeful message to Albion fans: "I would love to stay with West Brom because I have settled in the area. The team is looking better after a bad start to the season; things look a lot healthier. But it depends if Albion come up with the right kind of offer."

But it's not just money that matters. Owen, like a number of gifted young players, scents the chance of World Cup glory only six months away, and such a heady aroma may prove strong enough to give a lot of managers a lot of headaches in the coming months.



STOKE FORMULA CAN SAVE SUNDERLAND

AS Sunderland face up to another winter battle to stay in the First Division, Roker Park fans are beginning to realise why manager Alan Durban signed Iain Munro.

The 30-year-old former Scottish international left-back is showing all the character, determination and experience that Durban recognised during his managerial reign at Stoke City.

"The boss made me captain after ten games," says Munro. "One reason I suppose is that I am a shouter on the pitch, I make myself heard."

He is also a fighter, a player who enjoys a challenge, and one look at the First Division table is enough to prove that he has one on his hands at Roker.

"I am aware of being captain when I am on the pitch, and while I believe I can help the players

around me, I also know that this responsibility demands that I show more composure in my own game.

"Since being made skipper I have been a bit over-anxious to do well. Now is the time to settle into the role.

"It's obvious that we have a big job on our hands, but at Stoke we won very few games with any margin to spare.

"Most of our wins were by the single goal. It was hard work and very tight; a long demanding season.

"The boss is trying to do for Sunderland what he did for Stoke, so we know it is going to be a battle to get out of trouble. But I know how our manager works.

"I have seen how his methods can restore confidence and improve discipline and organisation. It takes a little time, but I believe the formula will work again."



Battling Munro in action against Manchester United.

HERO KELLY

EDDIE Kelly has taken on just about every challenge in football and now he faces the most demanding of his career — guiding Leicester City back to the First Division.

"There isn't a better man around to give us what we want: balance and guile in the middle of the park," said manager Jock Wallace.

"We have so many youngsters at Filbert Street that you need a player like Eddie to set the example. They look up to him. It doesn't matter how much you coach and train young players... it's out there in the heat of the

battle where they most want help.

"Eddie will do that for us. Show the correct tactics, dictate the appropriate pace, set a standard of discipline. You have to earn a few grey hairs in football over the years to learn the kind of experience that he can offer this club."

If Kelly can steady the talented Leicester side that tumbled out of the First Division last season and steer them back on course, he will achieve an amazing hat-trick.

Last season, he was a key figure in Notts County's promotion to the First: 12 months earlier, equally vital in Leicester's trip to the top.

"I enjoy each of these challenges as they come along. I'm a gambler. Every season for the past few years I've been signing one-term contracts... and doing a job where I'm needed," says the 30-year-old former ace of Arsenal's legendary 1970-71 double team.

But even he had thought his days of controlling crack teams were over. At the end of last season as Notts County departed for the First Division, he switched his allegiance to Fourth Division Bournemouth to help out a close friend from his days at Queens Park Rangers — David Webb.

'Attractive'

"David is doing a fine job there as manager. He's got an improving side playing some attractive football," says Eddie. "The trouble was the journey from my home near Leicester: four hours of driving each way. We came to an agreement that I could return to the Midlands if any club nearer home came in for me."

That club was Leicester — and, after 18 months away from Filbert Street, he returned on a free transfer.

"I feel that I'm still playing well enough to hold my own in Second Division football. I only hope that I can pass on to the youngsters the know-how that Jock Wallace wants from me."

"I'm sure that I can stop enthusiastic players flying around at a terrific pace that gets them nowhere in the end. I've got no option about that, because I can't go as fast as them anyway!"

"Seriously, however, I know that there is the talent in this club to succeed again just as we did two years ago. The squad is also big enough to cope with injuries."

"Players like Andy Peake, Larry May, Ian Wilson, Steve Lynex and John O'Neill are going to get better and better."

"Don't let anyone count us out yet for promotion back to the First. If you've got enough good players, and Jock certainly has, the three points for a win system can give any side a chance with a consistent run of victories."



CLUB SPOTLIGHT

ROVERS REVIVAL

—if Saxton stays

ARE Blackburn Rovers a football club thrusting for promotion to the First Division or are they simply a nursery for bright, young managers to cut their teeth before going on to better things?

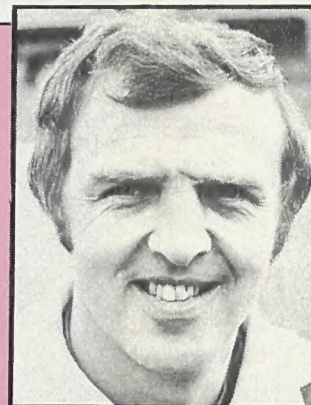
The Ewood Park fans themselves pose the question at regular intervals, for just when they appear to have a winning team, the manager is lured away from them to the big time.

Gordon Lee, Jim Smith and Howard Kendall have all moved on to bigger things in recent years.

Bobby Saxton (right), breezy former manager of Exeter and Plymouth, has done enough already to suggest that First Division clubs could be tempted to exploit his managerial talents before long.

Remarkably, hierarchal changes at Ewood have not drastically undermined team-spirit and performance.

Blackburn, boosted by Norman Bell's goal-punch since his transfer from Wolves for £150,000, have climbed the Second Division table rapidly after a slow start and could



well hoist themselves into the promotion bracket in the next three months.

Elevation to the First Division is nothing more than they deserve after Bobby Saxton's cautious managerial reign in which he has been careful not to destroy the good work accomplished by Kendall before his departure.

Saxton had to replace Jim Arnold after the Stafford-born goalkeeper followed Kendall to Everton, but Terry Gennoe, plucked from Southampton reserves, has more than justified his transfer to Ewood.

Glenn Keeley, Derek Fazackerley, Mike Rathbone and Jim Bragan in defence deny opposing forwards an inch of space, which probably explains why Rovers have one of the best "goals against" records in the Second Division.

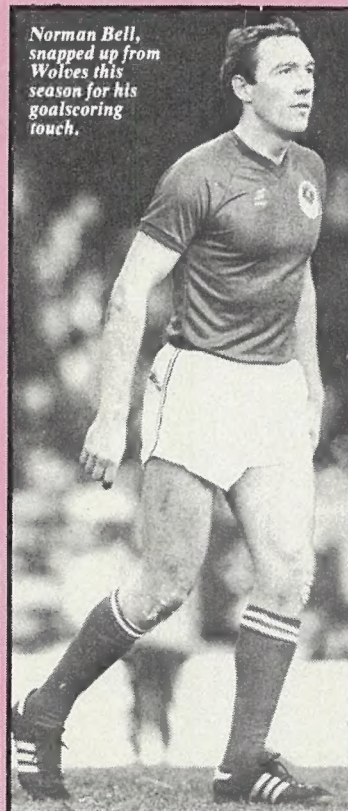
Successfully

There has been no shortage of goals from Blackburn either. Kevin Stonehouse, top scorer last season after bridging the gap successfully between non-League and the professional game, was in good form before the Big Freeze, and Simon Garner, has also fulfilled his potential after a disappointing goal record in 1980-81.

He cracked two goals at West Bromwich Albion in the F.A. Cup Third Round only to finish on the losing side, but Garner's presence in Blackburn's line-up spells danger.

It is 15 years since Blackburn last played in the First Division. They have twice dropped into the Third Division since the glory days of Ronnie Clayton and Bryan Douglas but can now view the future with optimism under the guidance of their 15th manager since the War.

Hopefully, Bobby Saxton will stay around long enough to lead Blackburn Rovers back to the First Division.



Norman Bell, snapped up from Wolves this season for his goalscoring touch.

BLACKBURN



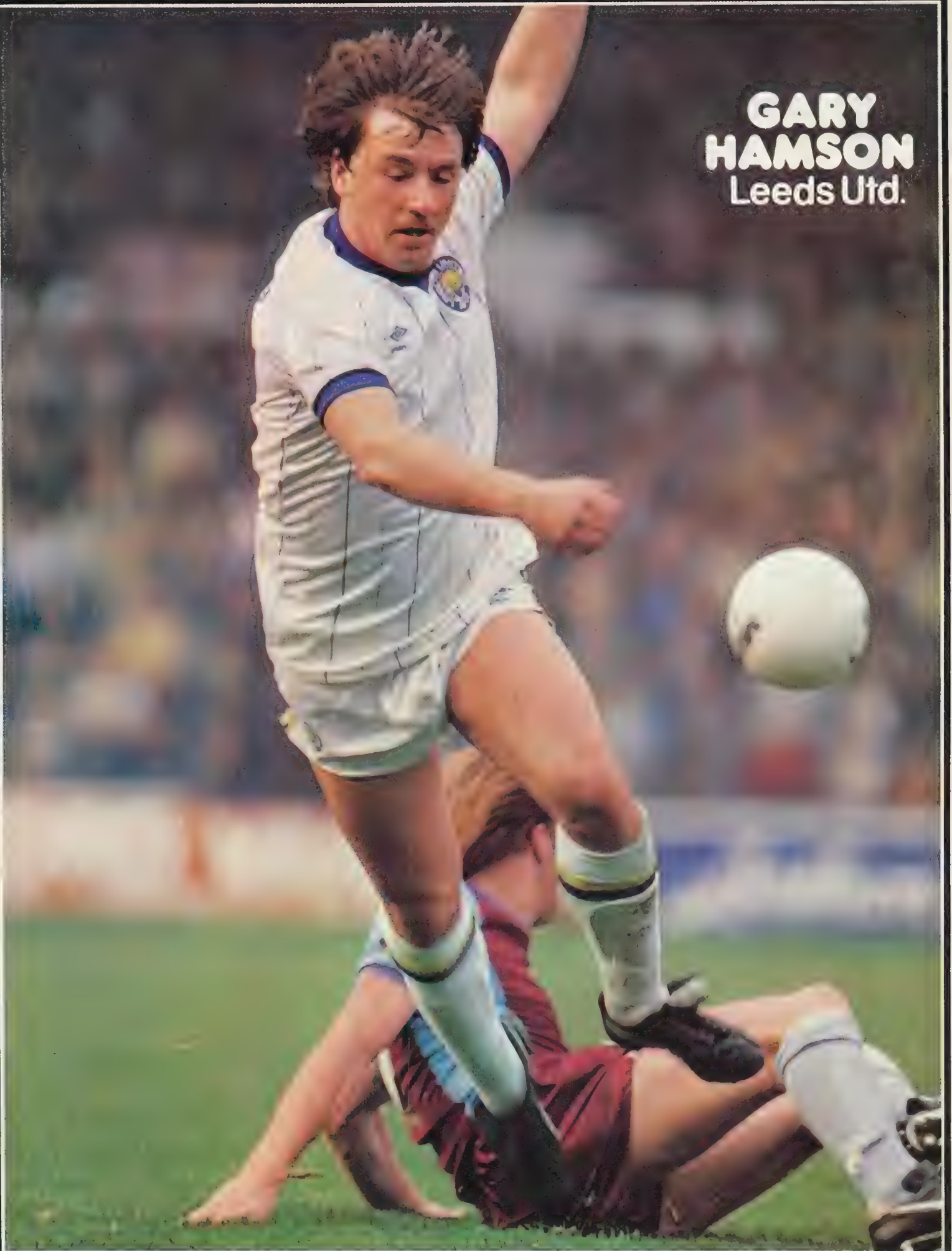
BACK ROW (left to right): Glenn Keeley, Terry Gennoe, John Butcher, Chris Pearce, Paul Consett, Viv Busby
MIDDLE ROW: Tony Parks (coach), John Lowe, Phil Williamson

MICK SPIGHT, Mike Rathbone, Jim Branagan, Derek Fazackerley, Bobby Saxton (manager)
FRONT ROW: Kim Walters, Ian Miller, Noel Brotherton, Marshall

BURKE, David Hamilton, Andy Crawford, Simon Garner, Kevin Stonehouse

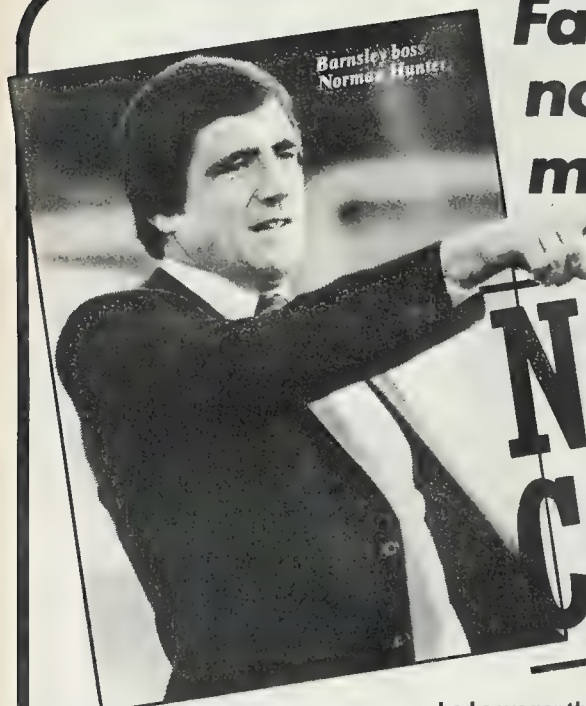
SHOOT!

**GARY
HAMSON**
Leeds Utd.



SHOOT!

Famous five prove us right— now we spotlight more young managers destined for the top



NORMAN'S CONQUEST!

THREE years ago in SHOOT we indulged in a little spot of crystal ball gazing. We told you that the managers of the future would be men like Graham Taylor, John Toshack, Graham Turner, Mick Buxton and Peter Morris.

Happily those five just men have done their jobs well — and not let anybody down.

Tosh has exceeded even his own expectations by taking Swansea City all the way to the top of the First Division.

Graham Taylor has confirmed his potential by building and rebuilding to such an extent at Watford that they're now genuine First Division material.

And Turner, Buxton and Morris have helped their clubs consolidate, while still cherishing ambitions of more possible progress.

So encouraged by our good vision, we thought the time was right for another gaze into that same crystal ball.

Insane

IAN PORTERFIELD was regarded as insane by those who could not see beyond the bare facts of his summer move from promoted Rotherham to relegated Sheffield United.

He had just taken a club of limited resources back to the Second Division for the first time since 1969.

Good going — but Porterfield knew he would have to keep the momentum going — that life could develop into a struggle at Millmoor.

Taking over at Sheffield United the club could only go one way — up. The greater salary was obviously an attraction, but Porterfield looked beyond that, to the potential of the job.

If he can lead The Blades out of the unthinkable wilderness of the Fourth Division his reputation as a manager will be sky high.

His chairman Reg Brealey has

had a wager that Porterfield will take Sheffield United into the First Division in 1984!

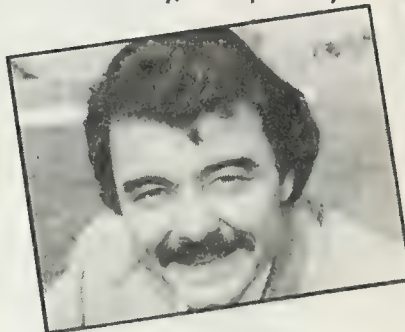
Shrewd man Ian Porterfield — don't bet against him.

Equally intelligent, forthright and articulate is MALCOLM MACDONALD.

Since taking over from Bobby Campbell at Craven Cottage, 'Supermac' has transformed the team.

Confidence had evaporated, too many players had become used to failure and were merely going through the motions.

The weeding out process was soon underway, and is probably



not yet complete, but results have improved immeasurably, the confidence is flooding back.

Macdonald "stole a march" by getting hold of a free transfer list before they were officially published.

As a result he was first in the queue for Brighton's vastly experienced Peter O'Sullivan who has had a marked influence on the side.

Macdonald's own goalscoring skills and his ability to translate fluently have given Gordon Davies an even sharper edge in front of goal, and there is a distinct "Supermac" look about new goalscoring find Dean Coney.

Youngsters Jeff Hopkins, Clive Day, Sean O'Driscoll and Peter Scott have been given their opportunities, and taken them alongside the continued emergence of Tony Gale and Robert Wilson.



Former Charlton star Keith Peacock (left) has bought wisely for Gillingham and has taken them into the Third Division promotion race. Ian Porterfield (top) looks like leading Sheffield United (above stripes) into the Third Division.

Malcolm Macdonald's organisational abilities are there for all to see before every game when he and George Armstrong take the team through a 30-minute warm-up session.

Those abilities will take him far off the field as well.

Another former England international with a quieter, yet equally efficient style is Barnsley's NORMAN HUNTER.

On the pitch Norman led by example. Off it his strength is friendly persuasion.

Contrary to popular misconception he is not the "bull in a china shop" type. He is quiet and courteous, but his blood runs with steel, and his passion and flavour for success cannot help but inspire those who play for him.

Somehow Barnsley's blazing red shirts symbolise Hunter and his team.

There have been bigger names in the game than Joe Joyce, Trevor Aylott, Derrick Parker, Ian Banks and Mick McCarthy.

Yet Hunter's ability to make players believe they are better than their opposite numbers is epitomised by this quintet, picked out by Norman himself as men who could play for England.

Immensely well liked by players and directors alike, which can be a rarity in this game, Norman Hunter is very much on the right lines to take Barnsley even higher.

KEITH PEACOCK of Gillingham has been around long enough to know that the road ahead is a long one, full of pot-holes.

So far he has recruited wisely with his old Charlton pals Dick Tydeman, Colin Powell and Richie Bowman well to the fore.

He has cajoled Dean White into the role of goalscorer, and

generally marshalled the forces at his disposal, so that a team that has consistently failed at the final hurdle in recent seasons has had faith in itself very much restored.

The last of our star management material team is still playing his part on the field as well but ROY MCFARLAND has quickly proved he also has a fine business brain.

The one-time Derby County and England number five will readily acknowledge that his smartest move was made before he even moved to Bradford City.

He enlisted the considerable support of Mick Jones who'd seen it all before as manager of Mansfield Town.

Together they are forging a partnership that some believe could go on to resemble that other great alliance Clough and Taylor.

Without buying a single player he has taken Bradford to the peak of the Fourth Division, to the award for top goalscorers in the Football League, and to a good run in the League Cup.

It augurs well for the future.

Up front with

STEVE ARCHIBALD



TOTTENHAM manager Keith Burkinshaw has given the World Cup priority over the club's chances of winning honours this season.

Even if the season has to be extended into June and we're going for the League title, Keith has promised to release Ray Clemence and Glenn Hoddle for England, Ossie Ardiles and Ricky Villa for Argentina and myself for Scotland if selected.

That was a brave decision for him to make, especially as the season could go on until a week before the Finals are due to start because of the backlog of fixtures.

It was also the first positive step taken by a manager. Let's hope others follow Keith's lead and give the three Home nations all the sup-

against Portugal in March, 1980.

I scored once in Scotland's 4-1 victory thanks to a superb pass from Andy, so we clicked as a partnership from the start.

Andy's a great guy to have around in a squad. He's a bubbling character, always laughing and joking.

I've also played alongside Ipswich Town's Alan Brazil . . . twice for the Under-21's and when he made his full Scotland debut as a substitute for Joe Jordan in Poland in May, 1980.

Alan's tremendously skilful, has a great left-foot and is a lethal

Milan, will also be knocking on the door for a place.

Joe has been through two World Cups, so his experience could prove invaluable. Like so many top strikers, Joe is finding goals hard to come by this season, up to the time of writing he'd only scored once in the League, but he's still a feared force in the game.

A giant in the air, Joe never gives less than 100 per cent and is always willing to take the knocks, providing chances for others.

I haven't mentioned Kenny Dalglish because he's a definite starter for Spain. There's no chance of Jock Stein leaving him at home, even though he hasn't been in scoring form for Scotland recently.

Kenny is one of the finest strikers in the world and like Joe has played in the last two World Cups in West

Germany and Argentina. Kenny's experience and class could be Scotland's key factor in Spain.

Just enough space to mention Tottenham's match at Everton this Saturday (January 30th) weather permitting, of course.

Player-manager Howard Kendall is doing a first class job at Goodison. The players have responded to his enthusiasm and are working hard for him.

New signing Adrian Heath from Stoke should prove a very good buy. This lad is a very good player, believe me.

I scored both goals in Tottenham's 2-2 draw last season. We should get maximum points this time, considering we have more of a settled side than Everton at the moment and have been doing extremely well away from home.

'MY WORLD CUP BOOST'

port they can.

The bad weather might have played havoc with our domestic soccer, but that and my injury could have boosted my chances of playing in Spain.

My enforced lay-off since early December has been like a mini mid-season break. At the end of the season I should be fresher than most players in the squad if I'm



there.

Fortunately I haven't missed that many games for Spurs due to the Arctic conditions, but I have been training and working hard.

If everything works out for me, injury and selection wise, playing in the World Cup Finals will be one of the highlights of my career. I'm determined to be fitter, sharper and more mentally prepared than ever.

Obviously I don't regard myself as a certainty for Scotland. Let's face it, I've got some fierce opposition for my striking position.

Despite his problems at Wolves this season, Andy Gray must be very much in manager Jock Stein's mind.

Some people have said Andy's lost a bit of pace since his injury, but not in my opinion.

I played alongside Andy in my first game for Scotland when I came on as substitute for Kenny Dalglish

finisher. He seems to have been around for a long, long time, yet he's still only 23 or 24.

Alan's certainly doing the business for Ipswich this season, playing a leading role in their bid for the title.

Dundee United's Paul Sturrock must also come into the reckoning for a place in Spain. I played with Paul for Scotland when we beat Northern Ireland 2-0 in last season's British Championship at Hampden.

We're similar types of player, both in style and height, Paul does a great deal of running off the ball, so do I.

A sharp and consistent finisher, Paul is having his best ever season for Dundee United, showing form that has attracted the attention of several top English clubs.

I think Jock Stein rates Paul highly. Joe Jordan, now with AC



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Also col sound 200ft
- * 1977 Man. Utd. 2, Liv'pool 1..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
- * 1976 S'hamp'ton 1, Man. Utd. 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
- * 1975 West Ham 2, Fulham 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
- * 1974 Liverpool 3, N'castle 0..... 200ft
- * 1973 Sunderland 1, Leeds 0..... 200ft
- * 1973 Semi: Leeds 1, Wolves 0..... 100ft
- * 1972 Leeds 1, Arsenal 0..... 100ft
- * 1971 Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1..... 200ft
- 1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 1..... 100ft
- 1969 Man. City 1, Leicester 0..... 100ft
- 1968 WBA 1, Everton 0..... 200ft
- 1967 Spurs 2, Chelsea 1..... 200ft
- 1966 Everton 3, Sheff. Wed. 2..... 300ft
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- 1966 Man. Utd. 5, Benfica 1..... 200ft
- 1960 R. Madrid 7, Eintracht 3..... 200ft/400ft
- WORLD CUP
- * 1978 Argentina 3, Holland 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
- * 1978 Scotland 3, Holland 2..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
- * 1978 Argentina 2, France 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
- * 1978 Holland 2, Italy 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
- * 1978 Holland 2, West Germany 2..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
- * 1978 Brazil 2, Italy 1..... 200ft/400ft
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- * 1978 Best Goals of tournament..... 200ft/400ft
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- * 1974 W. Germany 4, Sweden 2..... 200ft
- * 1974 Holland 2, Brazil 0..... 200ft
- * 1974 Holland 4, Argentina 0..... 200ft
- * 1970 ITALY 4, GERMANY 3..... 200ft
- * 1970 ENGLAND 2, GERMANY 3..... 200ft
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POMPEY NOT CHIMING

PORTSMOUTH boss Frank Burrows reckons they should convert all the clocks at Fratton Park into alarm clocks:—"the ones that ring again before you drift back off to sleep."

It's not that Burrows (above) is feeling tired with the strain of management. He just wants to make sure that Pompey, for so long the sleeping giants of South coast soccer, don't go back into a slumber.

"We've had two good years — winning promotion and then just missing out on reaching the Second Division," Burrows says.

"This term we have got off to a terrible start and left ourselves a lot of catching up to do. We've got to make sure now that we don't lose all the ground we have gained."

The potential at Portsmouth — a big club in soccer just after the War — is tremendous.

The crowds are double most Third Division rivals, and Fratton Park, which can hold up to 40,000, is steeped in history and memories.

Obscurity

But until Burrows went there two and a half years ago the once proud club had been allowed to slide into the obscurity of the Fourth Division.

"The biggest thing in our favour is the support we get. If you can get a few results together people will come and watch.

"We're in the shadows of Southampton, with their Keegans and Channons, but people round here would sooner watch us.

"There's as much rivalry between us and Southampton as between the Manchester clubs or Liverpool and Everton.

"It means we've got the potential here to take the club all the way back to the First Division it left in 1959 — although I'll be happy to reach the Second just now."

Portsmouth fell way short of those standards at the start of this season — winning only three of their first eight League games at home.

"We weren't playing well either as individuals or as a team," Burrows admits. "But we kept working hard to put things right, and the gap between top and bottom in the Third Division is small enough that we could still cross it."



PHIL THOMPSON
My soccer world



'Michel Platini — France's key player.'

'EASY FOR ENGLAND? RUBBISH!'

I'll argue with anyone that the draw for the World Cup Finals favoured England. Rubbish! We're placed in one of the hardest groups. Reaching the next stage could be as difficult and nerve-racking for us as qualifying for Spain. It's going to be tough.

I was a bag of nerves as I sat watching the draw on TV at my home and I didn't feel any easier after taking a good look at Group Four.

I can see we're in for a programme of games that could test England to the limit. Finishing in number two spot will be no disgrace, although we'll obviously be aiming to win the Group.

France, our opening opponents, are a team I'd have preferred to avoid at this, or any other, stage. I thought they were the unluckiest team of all in the 1978 Finals in Argentina, and deserved to make more progress than they did.

The French have players with tremendous flair, individuals capable of winning a game single-handed if

necessary, a real handful for defenders like me.

My knowledge of most of their stars comes through watching TV and reading the newspapers, but I've personal experience of playing against Dominique Rocheteau when Liverpool met St-Etienne in the 1977 European Cup Quarter-Finals.

Then he was going through a bad time with injuries and had lost some of his pace, but he's right back to his old form and can be a deadly finisher.

Their key player is probably Michel Platini because everything seems to revolve around him. His speciality is free-kicks, and he can put a curve on a ball like a boomerang.

If the French have a weakness it's probably in defence. The big, coloured lad, Tresor, is the only defender who looks dominant in the air.

I've never yet played against France, and I was looking forward to the warm-up game in Paris in March, but the French have called it off now we're drawn together in the Finals.

I suppose we must look upon this as a compliment. After weighing up the pros and cons, they probably realised it was dangerous.

If we'd managed to win in Paris, it would have had a bad psychological effect on their team. The risk was too great.

Whether we look for another game is doubtful, as Ron Greenwood may decide that our hectic end-of-season programme brought about by mid-season cancellations may leave us in need of a rest.

Action from the third place play-off game between Czechoslovakia and Italy in the European Championship. It was decided on penalties, the Czechs winning 9-8.



1976 and finished third in that competition in 1980 — they have adjusted to each other's strengths and weaknesses.

One encouraging thing is that the Czechs have the reputation of being bad travellers, so they may not adjust to the very different atmosphere, in all respects, in Spain.

Kuwait, far from being the Group's makeweights, have to be respected and could prove to be one of the tournament's inevitable surprise teams.

Kevin Keegan reckons that by the time the Kuwaitis come to play us in the last match they'll have used up all their adrenalin against France and Czechoslovakia and won't play so hard against us.

Big ambition

I wouldn't bet a single peseta on that. Beating England is still regarded as a big ambition and I'm convinced that even if Kuwait has lost to both the other teams, they'll be 100 per cent motivated against us!

One thing that's really pleased me about the Finals arrangements is we're in Bilbao, an area with a climate closer to ours than the rest of Spain.

The people are also very friendly and love their football. Many of our managers have worked there, including the West Brom boss Ronnie Allen, who always speaks very warmly about the region.

I only hope the minority amongst the English fans — the likes of those

who rioted during the European Championship in Italy — realise there's no future in misbehaving themselves. England's hopes would suffer — and so will they!

The Spanish authorities are used to dealing with terrorists, so hooligans will be no problem. Kid gloves will not be worn!

All our fans will be better employed getting right behind England, giving us all the encouragement they can. Because they'll be competing against an equal number of French fans who only have to pop across the border.

I can't close without mentioning how relieved I was that the three Home countries have been separated by the draw, a good thing for British football.

The Scots have a really tough draw. But with the strongest squad I can remember, and under Jock Stein, they are capable of upsetting Brazil and Russia.

And if the luck of the Irish continues — they had a good draw — there's a chance all three nations could be amongst the 12 in Stage Two.

Phil Thompson

SHOOT: We keep hearing that you're retiring . . . will you lead Belgium in Spain?

VAN MOER: I'm not sure. Our manager Guy Thys is trying to convince me that I'll still be needed, but I'm not so sure. I'm seriously thinking about the situation.

SHOOT: What are the problems?

VAN MOER: I'll be 37 when the World Cup starts. And a lot can happen between now and mid-June. I'll admit it would be marvellous to play in the world's number one tournament again. My decision will be made later, though. One way or another I'll be there — either as a player or a journalist for a Belgian newspaper.

SHOOT: You seem to have retired as many times as Frank Sinatra or Muhammad Ali!

VAN MOER: That's right! Two and a half years ago I was happy playing club football when Guy Thys asked me to come back for the 1980 European Championship campaign. I was happy to help out. After playing in Italy I thought that was that. Then came the 1982 World Cup qualifiers . . .

SHOOT: Belgium always looked like qualifying for Spain.

VAN MOER: It may have seemed like that, but I can assure you it wasn't easy. We had Holland, France and the Republic of Ireland in our group and they aren't exactly walk-overs. In the end, we deserved to finish top, however.

SHOOT: Did you feel under much pressure having been runners-up in the European Championship?

BELOW . . . Van Moer holds his head after missing an easy chance against the USSR in Mexico, 1970.



ABOVE . . . England v Belgium in the 1980 European Championship — Gerets and Johnson go for the ball.

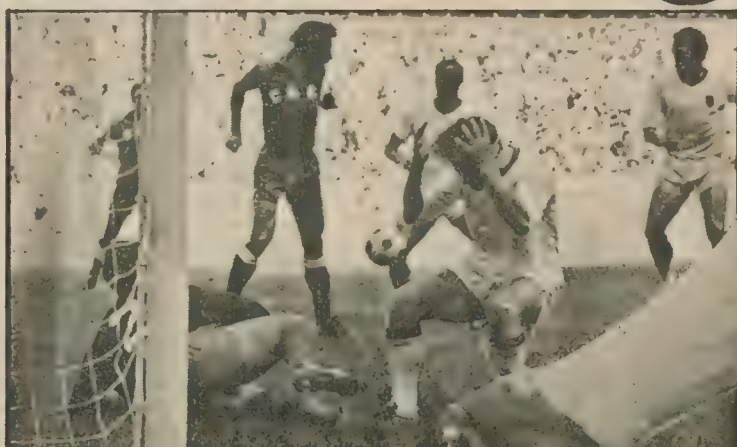


SPAIN 82
**WORLD CUP
CAPTAINS**

No.5

**WILFRIED
VAN MOER**
Belgium

'England won't



WORLD CUP RECORD

Year	Opponents	Result
1930	U.S.A.	0-3
	Paraguay	0-1
1934	Germany	2-5
1938	France	1-3
1954	England	4-4
	Italy	1-4
1970	El Salvador	3-0
	U.S.S.R.	1-4
	Mexico	0-1

VAN MOER: We did. After doing so well in Italy everyone was looking at us. People wondered whether we were a flash in the pan or whether we could progress. I think qualifying for the World Cup Finals has proved that we are rightly considered one of the best sides in Europe.

SHOOT: Belgium, like England, had almost ten years in the international wilderness. How do you explain your recent success?

VAN MOER: I played in the 1970 World Cup Finals in Mexico and the main difference between then and now is the atmosphere in the squad. For that, Mr Thys must get all the credit. He's made the squad a very happy one.

SHOOT: The squad has been fairly settled over the past couple of years.

VAN MOER: This has helped. Having few changes has enabled us to know each other better. Tactically we're strong and this makes us difficult to beat. We can also adapt to counter any formation our opponents use as most of our players can play in various roles. So I'd say the good team-spirit and our tactical know-how are the main reasons why we're near the top.

SHOOT: Having finished second in the European Championship, how far can Belgium go in Spain?

VAN MOER: I don't really want to make any predictions about this.

Let's say I'd be satisfied if we reached the second stage of the competition. Anyway, if we play to our potential, anything could happen. Look at what we achieved in Italy...

SHOOT: Who are your favourites?

VAN MOER: I'd have to put West Germany as my hot tips. Their form and results in their qualifying ties have been fantastic and Paul Breitner and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge will be key players. Then there are the Brazilians and the Argentines, who obviously have a good chance. Spain may be the surprise packet with the traditional advantages of being hosts. One of these will win the Final I reckon.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Cyprus 2, Rep. Ireland 3
Rep. Ireland 2, Holland 1
Cyprus 0, France 7
Rep. Ireland 1, Belgium 1
France 2, Rep. Ireland 0
Belgium 1, Holland 0
Rep. Ireland 6, Cyprus 0
Belgium 3, Cyprus 2
Cyprus 0, Belgium 2
Holland 3, Cyprus 0
Holland 1, France 0
Belgium 1, Rep. Ireland 0
France 3, Belgium 2
Cyprus 0, Holland 1
Holland 2, Rep. Ireland 2
Belgium 2, France 0
Holland 3, Belgium 0
Rep. Ireland, 3 France 2
France 2, Holland 0
France 4, Cyprus 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Belgium	8	5	1	2	12	9	11
France	8	5	0	3	20	8	10
Rep. Ireland	8	4	2	2	17	11	10
Holland	8	4	1	3	11	7	9
Cyprus	8	0	0	8	4	29	0



ABOVE ... West Germany's Paul Breitner (white shirt) — just one reason why Van Moer believes the Germans will do well in Spain.

LEFT ... Eire's Michael Robinson comes away from Luc Millecamps of Belgium in a qualifying tie.

few more matches won't hurt. Seriously, I don't think it'll make much difference whether there are 16 or 24 countries involved. It's just that, as I said, I'm not too happy with the way the groups are drawn.

SHOOT: Presumably you're happy that you'll be playing in Europe?

VAN MOER: Definitely. It's much better for us to be in our own Continent than in South or Central America. I wasn't knocked out by playing in Mexico 12 years ago. We didn't like the typically Mexican food... we felt cut off... we soon became disinterested with football. In fact we weren't too disappointed when we lost and had to come home! Such things won't happen in Spain. There will be many Belgian supporters. No food problems. It won't be too warm, except possibly in the South, but we won't be playing at altitudes as we were in Mexico. All the European teams must be pleased that the Finals are in Spain.

SHOOT: A word on the draw?

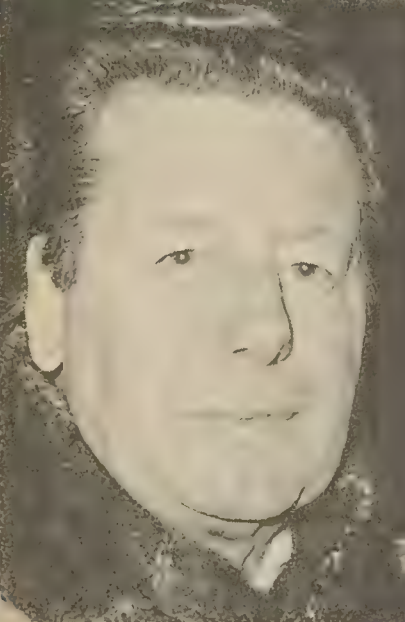
VAN MOER: After the farcical way it was done, it was unsettling to find we play Argentina in the opening game. But it's no use moaning — we've got to get on with the job.

SHOOT: And after the Finals?

VAN MOER: That's it. Definitely. I'm retiring for good.

go far in Spain'

THE MANAGER Guy Thys



TOOK much of the credit for the tactical planning behind Belgium's excellent performance in the 1980 European Championship, and for having the guts to recall 35-year-old veteran Van Moer.

But Thys' appointment to succeed Raymond Goethals in 1977 had been hotly disputed in some quarters.

Born on December 6th, 1922, he was certainly not short of experience.

His father Ivan had played for Beerschot, and Guy made his debut there in 1939.

After wearing their number nine shirt for 11 years he joined Standard Liege for four seasons and picked up two international caps before joining Cercle Bruges as player-manager in 1954.

His travels then took him to Lokeren, Wazem, Herenthalt, Beveren and St. Gilloise (he took the last two from Second to First Division) before settling at Antwerp in 1973 and staying until his appointment as national team boss in 1977.

He'll be 60 this year and hopes to celebrate by seeing the young team he's built among the world's best.

SHOOT: England?

VAN MOER: They're always difficult to play against, but I can't see them getting too far. They're no longer the virtually unbeatable team they used to be.

SHOOT: They were seeded...

VAN MOER: This gives them a big advantage and could see them through to the second round. It's all a matter of commercial interest. How else can you explain why the English are seeded? What have they done in recent years to deserve this? Of course the organisers know that England will have a huge following and the longer they're in the tournament the better it is financially. In the end, the best teams will reach the Final.

SHOOT: How do you feel about 24 Finalists instead of 16?

VAN MOER: Twenty-four teams is a lot. But as people say professional footballers earn a lot of money for doing very little, a

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Passarella
Argentina



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WHEN Aberdeen entered 1982 halfway down the Premier Division most people probably thought they had given up hope of becoming Scottish Champions for the second time in three seasons.

Anyone of that opinion would be well advised not to voice it within earshot of Dons boss Alex Ferguson who says: "We won't be giving up until it's mathematically impossible to win the title."

Aberdeen, pride of the North, have a lot of ground to make up during the second half of the season.

But they are encouraged by what happened last season when they sprinted ahead of the field, only to be overtaken by Celtic.

"We were in a similar situation then to what Celtic find themselves now.

"But we faltered, got into a bit of a rut and couldn't get out of it and full credit to them for the way they finished.



Skipper Willie Miller clears from Hamburg's Horst Hrubesch in the UEFA Cup. But The Dons were beaten on a 5-4 aggregate. Aberdeen boss Alex Ferguson (below).

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

CHAMPIONS ABERDEEN The Celtic way

"If we can string a few results together who knows what might happen. We're one of the few sides capable of going on a charge.

"Let's face it, what happened to us last season could quite easily happen to Celtic this time around.

"Once you lose a couple of games it's sometimes difficult to stop the slide.

"I've been preaching to the players that the title race is far from finished. We've still to play Celtic twice, Rangers twice and

Dundee United twice.

"They'll all be important games, not only from the point of view of deciding the Championship but also sorting out which teams qualify for Europe."

Ferguson's team enjoyed considerable success in this season's UEFA Cup, of course, knocking out holders Ipswich Town with a scintillating display in the First Round and then proving far too strong for the Rumanians of Arges Pitesti in the Second.

Reaching the Third Round was the club's best-ever European performance and only an accumulation of missed chances, defensive blunders and injury problems robbed them of a Quarter-Final place at the expense of German giants Hamburg.

Aberdeen won the first leg in Scotland 3-2 but manager Ferguson sighs: "We absolutely murdered them. We missed half a dozen great chances, including a penalty and then handed them two goals on a plate.

"For the second leg in Germany we were without Doug Rougvie with cartilage trouble and Peter Weir took ill with a trapped nerve in his spine the night before the game. We had done a lot of work on tactics and Peter's absence meant we had to change our plans.

"I played four in midfield and made do with Eric Black and John Hewitt, both 18-year-olds, in attack. But it wasn't a success. We were up against some of the best players in the world, like Franz

Beckenbauer for example, and we just didn't have the experience."

Despite a brave display in Hamburg, The Dons lost 3-1 to crash out of the competition on a 5-4 aggregate. But Ferguson says: "Our run in Europe was a bonus and it was terrific experience for the youngsters. They'll be better players for it in the long term.

"But one thing Europe did teach me is that we're not yet totally equipped to compete on two fronts. The players were bubbling for the big games against the likes of Ipswich and Hamburg but struggling to keep the effervescence for ordinary League games."

Highlight

Ferguson's spell at Aberdeen, however, has had more ups than downs. The obvious highlight was in 1979-80 when he led them to the Championship, pipping Celtic by one point and ending an Old Firm monopoly that had lasted for 15 years.

A former Rangers striker, Ferguson is motivated by the thought of not only competing on level terms with the two Glasgow giants but also overhauling them in terms of honours.

And he is mounting the challenge with the emphasis on youth. The Pittodrie squad contains some of the most talented teenagers in the country with a transfer market value running into several millions of pounds.

But Ferguson is not interested in cashing in on his prize assets. The players are on good contracts and the financial situation at Pittodrie, without a doubt one of the best appointed grounds in Britain, is such that the club are under no pressure to sell.

No matter how The Dons fare in the challenge for domestic honours, several of the players will be packing their bags at the end of the season to join the Scottish challenge for World Cup glory in Spain.

Central defenders Alex McLeish and skipper Willie Miller, full-back Stuart Kennedy, midfield man Gordon Strachan, winger Peter Weir and goalkeeper Jim Leighton are all candidates for places in Jock Stein's final travelling party of 22.

Represented

But it is nothing new for Aberdeen to be well represented at international level. Veteran goalkeeper Bobby Clark won 17 caps and other Scottish stars such as Martin Buchan, Arthur Graham and, going back a few years, Charlie Cooke all started their careers at Pittodrie.

They were all recruited by ace talent-spotter Bobby Calder who retired last year but at the age of 74 is still serving the club in a public relations capacity. And Ferguson is optimistic that the conveyor belt of talent will continue under the direction of his replacement, Jim Carswell.

As the youngsters mature it ensures healthy competition for first team places, and with an average age of only 21 within the senior squad the long-term future of the club is assured.

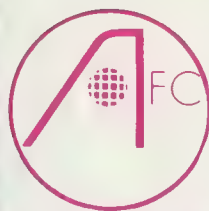
HONOURS

Scottish First Division
Champions: 1954-55

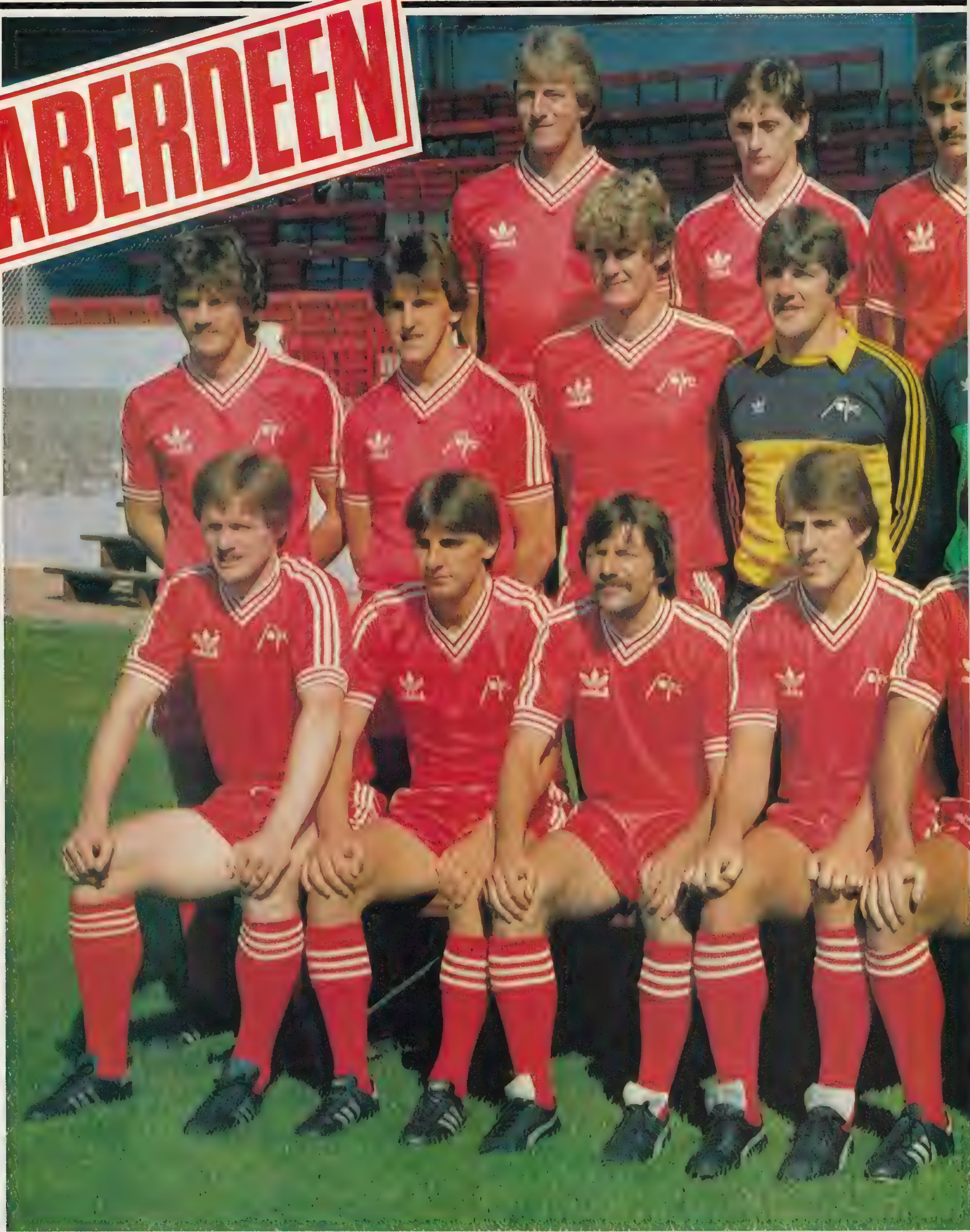
Scottish Premier Division
Champions: 1979-80


Scottish Cup winners: 1947,
1980

Scottish League Cup
winners: 1956, 1977



ABERDEEN





BACK ROW (left to right): Neil Simpson, Derek Hamilton, Andy Watson, Eric Black, Andy Harrow.
MIDDLE ROW: Dougie Bell, Peter Weir, Walker McCall, Bobby Clark, Jim Leighton, Doug Rougvie, Doug Considine, Neale Cooper.
FRONT ROW: John McMaster, John Hewitt, Stuart Kennedy, Mark McGhee, Willie Miller, Drew Jarvie, Gordon Strachan, Alex McLeish.



LEFT . . . Southampton and England striker Kevin Keegan outjumps the Liverpool defence.

BELOW . . . Billy Wright of Everton gets to grips with Tottenham's Mark Falco during their League clash at White Hart Lane this season.

HEADING FOR GLORY



Gary Bailey flists away for Manchester United despite the close attention of Manchester City defender Kevin Bond.



West Ham captain Billy Bonds comes to the rescue and heads clear against Stoke City.

RONNIE Whelan is on the verge of completing a task even harder than winning an international cap — establishing himself as a regular at Liverpool.

The young Irishman has made only a handful of appearances for the European Champions, but he has already taken the eye of many a shrewd football judge.

In November last year he was voted Robinson's Barley Water Young Player of the Month.

At the presentation, made by Joe Mercer, Whelan was compared with arguably the

greatest Irishman ever to play the game — Peter Doherty.

"He reminds me of Peter in so many ways," said Mercer. "He is well balanced, has good vision, two good feet, and he gets into scoring positions."

"He has all the basic qualities of becoming a regular in the Liverpool side and that is very hard."

But the praise falls on stoney-ground when you speak to Whelan, who has the proud distinction of representing the Republic at every level.

"All that is good to hear," he says. "But I haven't done

Chelsea," says Whelan. "I was warned that would be one of the problems when I signed for Liverpool. And it was, too."

"But I soon got over it. People made me very welcome and I was happy in the knowledge that I had joined a great club."

Whelan's first chance to show what he could do at senior level came against Stoke City last season. The day before the Grand National at Aintree.

Liverpool won 3-0, Whelan marking his debut by scoring the first goal.

"My parents came over from Ireland specially for the game," he says. "We had it in mind to go and watch the National, but things went so well for me we went back to Ireland for a small celebration!"

At just 20 Whelan has plenty of

time ahead to establish himself at Anfield. He is already earmarked as Ray Kennedy's successor.

"I don't mind which side of the midfield I play," he says. "When Sammy Lee had a spell out of the side this season I was playing on the right and enjoyed myself just as much. I don't think it matters as long as you are in the first-team."

"After my debut against Stoke City going back into the reserves was hard enough. It gets more difficult every time, but I don't want to be greedy."

"My chance came quicker than I thought it would and I take heart from what Sammy has done at Liverpool."

'Regular'

"He was only 18 when he made his debut and it was another four years before he held down a regular place."

Whelan, who is in digs with Kevin Sheedy, another Liverpool hopeful, less than a stone's throw from the Anfield ground, is enjoying his new life-style.

"It's great when people recognise you, he says. "It takes a bit of getting used to at first, though."

"My ambition now is to win a regular place at Anfield, which in turn, I hope will produce a successful and happy career."

As has happened in the past, Liverpool have been written off by some critics this season. But as long as there are players like Ronnie Whelan around, things can't be too bad at Anfield.

WHELAN plays down DOHERTY comparison

too much at all yet. There's a long way to go."

Whelan, who arrived at Anfield from the famous Irish side Home Farm on his 18th birthday, has already won three international caps.

His father, Ron senior, also played for the Republic. He had a spell at Chelsea as a 17-year-old, but returned home to play for St. Patrick's Athletic and Drogheda.

"Dad was home-sick at

Peter Doherty, the former Northern Ireland international whose style was so reminiscent of Ronnie Whelan's.

**PERHAPS
THE GREATEST
IRISH PLAYER
OF ALL TIME**



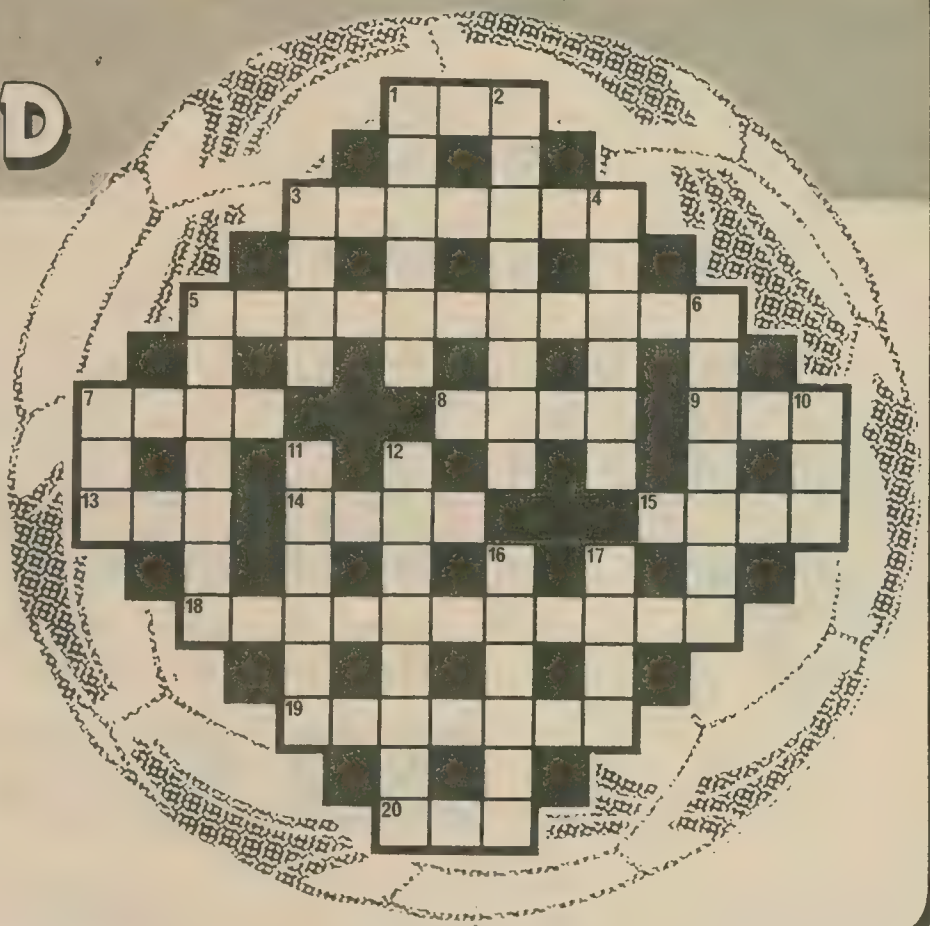
On the ball CROSSWORD

ACROSS:—

- (1) Jeremy C...rle-; Swansea utility player. (3)
- (3) Alan —, Liverpool defender. (7)
- (5) Aidan —, Leeds United striker. (11)
- (7) Micky —, Chelsea defender. (4)
- (8) Support for the goal! (4)
- (9) Raith Rovers play at S...ks Park. (3)
- (13) If Brentford, Burnley & Montrose make "DYE", what do Airdrie, Arsenal & Clydebank make? (3)
- (14) Use four letters from ROCHDALE to make a repeated sound. (4)
- (15) — Smith, manager of Stirling Albion (or — O'Hara of Partick Thistle). (4)
- (18) English First Division side from Meadow Lane Ground. (5&6)
- (19) Dean —, Grimsby Town defender. (7)
- (20) Paul ... dy; Cardiff star. (3)

DOWN:—

- (1) Alan —, Liverpool defender. (6)
- (2) Steve —, Watford goalkeeper. (8)
- (3) Phil —, Bristol Rovers 'keeper. (4)
- (4) Terry —, midfield player capped 58 times by Wales and now with Vancouver Whitecaps. (6)
- (5) Bud —, Birmingham City winger. (7)
- (6) Mark —, Coventry City striker. (7)
- (7) Remove DEN from Dundee and the remainder can be "owing"! (3)
- (10) Graham —, Arsenal midfield player. (3)
- (11) The first British club to win the European Cup. (6)
- (12) Gordon —, Sunderland defender. (8)
- (16) Placed over the goalkeeper's head. (6)
- (17) — Mirocevic, Sheffield Wednesday midfielder player. (4)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 32

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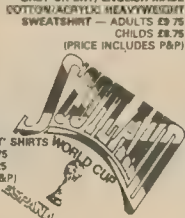
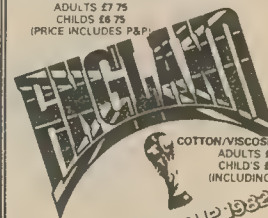
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WORLD Cup fever has football in its grip once again as the big countdown starts in earnest for the Spanish extravaganza this summer.

This may be a novel experience for English soccer fans — after all,

against Scotland shortly after Cesar Menotti's men had won the World Cup and you just had to applaud his extraordinary skills.

He scored his side's third goal in their 3-1 triumph when he sent half the Scotland team the wrong way with a swift shake of the hips. In

fact, I swear the fans in the terracing behind that goal were also sold a perfect dummy!

It's difficult to pinpoint a weakness in Diego's make-up, but we should remember that England kept him fairly quiet at Wembley a couple of years ago.

He started well enough, but seemed to lose his appetite for the game when England cut off his supply. I suppose he has matured a bit since then and that's why I think he will be the outstanding individual in Spain, whether or not Argentina retain the trophy.

Brazil, too, have their fare share of marvellous individuals and, of course, Zico immediately springs to

mind as a player who will sparkle in Spain. We saw what he could do when he helped Flamengo to their runaway 3-0 triumph over Liverpool and his influence in that game was nothing short of frightening.

Another Brazilian who is likely to hit the headlines is their captain Socrates. I believe he will have a great World Cup series.

He is a bit of a puzzle, isn't he? He is so big and powerful yet so skilful and dainty. He has the same build as Peter Withe, but his ball control is in a different class.

Italy, too, should be at home in the Spanish conditions, but I can't help wondering about veteran goalkeeper Dino Zoff. Age would appear to be slowing him down. I think the Italians are now suffering from what used to be known as the Brazilian disease . . . they just can't come up with a good young 'keeper.

The Soviet Union could be a surprise packet. They play well as a team yet have exciting individuals such as Oleg Blokhin, the former European Footballer of the Year, and the Dinamo Tbilisi double act of Shengalia and that brilliant sweeper Chivadze.

Outstanding

Belgium also have some outstanding players in their line-up. I liked the look of their tall midfielder man Jan Ceulemans in the European Championship in Italy a couple of years ago.

France are a good team to watch and I admire their two attackers Dominique Rocheteau and Michel Platini.

And don't forget Scotland. The world, hopefully, will be entranced by the form of Kenny Dalglish, John Robertson, Graeme Souness, Alex McLeish, Alan Hansen and others.

Who will win the World Cup? I'll save that prediction for a future issue when I will name my top four. Will Scotland figure prominently in that group? Watch this space!

Ally Dawson

**TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK**

● Now turn to page 30 for a colour photo of Diego Maradona.

'Maradona has Pele's magic'

our neighbours from across the border haven't properly qualified for a World Cup since 1962 — but Scotland, of course, have played in West Germany in 1974 and Argentina in 1978 and will make it a hat-trick in Spain.

Sorry, English supporters, but I couldn't resist that little jibe!

It's time to look forward to the spectacular skills of some of the game's greatest players and I'll dedicate this week's column to some of the men who are bound to make an enormous impact during June and July.

I've got to start with Diego Maradona, the Argentinian superstar. I've just watched a video clip of this amazing player in action and, honestly, I think he is playing a different game from everyone else in this world.

Impossible

His ball control is simply breathtaking. His compact size plus his well muscled physique make it virtually impossible to knock him off the ball when he gets into his stride.

Diego's vision is remarkable. Pele was something special in this field — will we ever forget how he tried to lob Czech goalkeeper Ivo Viktor from the halfway line during the 1970 World Cup Finals in Mexico — and the Argentinian looks to have the same special gift.

On the clip of film I watched before writing this article, Diego scored about 12 goals in various games and they were from all ranges and angles. His repertoire is astounding. Cheeky little chips over the advancing goalkeeper and then devastating drives from outrageous angles.

I saw Diego in action at Hampden



The maestro, Pele, and his protege, Maradona (right).



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TS...SCORERS... LINE-UPS

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday, January 30th

Villa v Liverpool

WE usually expect to see some goals in clashes between these two sides. The 0-0 draw at Anfield earlier this season was only the third goalless draw between Villa and Liverpool since the War. Many of us haven't forgotten how Villa shocked the Reds with a 5-1 win at Villa Park in December, 1976 (Andy Gray two, John Deehan two, and Brian Little). Liverpool were top of the table at that time.

Everton v Spurs

ALTHOUGH Spurs haven't won at Goodison since August, 1968, when Jimmy Greaves and Martin Chivers got their goals in a 2-0 victory (incidentally, there was a crowd of over 55,000 in attendance on that occasion), they have managed to draw six of their 11 more recent League visits, including draws from the last three in a row.

Spurs already have a 3-0 victory to their credit this season over Everton and a win on Saturday would give them their first double over the Toffeemen since 1966-67.

Man. City v Birmingham

THIS will be the 100th Football League clash between these two clubs. So far Manchester City have won 43, Birmingham 40, and 16 have been drawn.

Birmingham have found it especially difficult to get points at Maine Road in recent years, their last 14 visits resulting in two wins and 12 defeats. However, since their return to the First Division in 1980 Birmingham have won all three of their League games against City, including a 1-0 victory at Maine Road last season when Archie Gemmill hit the winner from the penalty spot.

Swansea v Man. Utd.

WHILE Swansea City have never won at Old Trafford, Manchester United have yet to win a League game at the Vetch Field. United will be making their seventh League visit on Saturday, the first since season 1937-38 when they drew 2-2.

Third Division

CHESTERFIELD 0
PRESTON 0 3,969

Fourth Division

WIGAN 0
TRANMERE 0 4,133

Wednesday, Jan. 6

F.A. Cup

(Third Round)

PETERBOROUGH (0) 0
BRISTOL CITY (0) 1 (Chandler) 6,811

SCUNTHORPE (0) 1 (Stewart)
HEREFORD (1) 1 (Showers) 3,781

Stoke: Fox, Evans, Kirk, Dodd, Watson, Doyle, Lumsden, O'Callaghan, Chapman, Bracewell, Johnson.



Brendan O'Callaghan (Stoke)

NOTTM. FOREST (0) 2 (Ward, Wallace)
BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 (Worthington) 15,906
Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray, Gunn, Young, Walsh (Bowyer), McGovern, Wallace, Ward, Proctor, Robertson.

Birmingham: Coton, Langan, Brocken, Van den Heuvel, Broadhurst, Todd, Dillon, Whatmore, Worthington, Gemmill, van Mierlo.

Second Division

GRIMSBY (0) 1 (Waters)
ORIENT (1) 2 (Godfrey, Moores) 6,877
Grimsby: Batch, Moore (D), Crombie, Waters, Wigginton, Moore (K), Broily (Kilmora), Whymark, Ford, Mitchell, Cumming.

OLDHAM (0) 1 (Palmer)
WATFORD (0) 1 (Jenkins) 7,409
Oldham: McDonnell, Edwards, Ryan, Keegan, Clements, Fletcher, McDonough, Heaton, Steel, Palmer, Atkinson.

Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Pritchett, Taylor, Terry, Bolton, Callaghan, Blissett, Jenkins, Barnes, Lohman (Armstrong).

Third Division

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 2 (Cowling, Brown)
OXFORD (0) 0 7,070

PLYMOUTH (0) 1 (Hodges)
BURNLEY (0) 1 (Young) 5,065

Fourth Division

BLACKPOOL (0) 2 (Morris 2)
SCUNTHORPE (0) 0 4,136

BRADFORD (0) 1 (Stanforth)
HULL (1) 1 (Roberts (G)) 5,183

F.A. Cup

(Second Round)

CARLISLE (0) 1 (Lee)
BISHOP AUCLAND (0) 0 at Workington 4,536

Scottish Premier

RANGERS (0) 1 (Bett pen)
CELTIC (0) 0 42,000
Rangers: Stewart, Jardine, Dawson, Stevens, Jackson, Bett, Cooper (McAdam), Russell, Johnstone, Dalziel, MacDonald.
Celtic: Bonner, McGrain, Reid, Arken, McAdam, MacLeod, Provan (McGarvey), Conroy (Moyes), Nicholas, Burns, McCluskey.

Tuesday, Jan. 12

League Cup

(Quarter-Final)

LIVERPOOL 0
BARNESLEY 0 33,707
Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Lawrenson, Thompson, Whelan, Hansen, Dalglish, Kennedy (A), Rush, McDermott, Souless.
Barnsley: Horn, Joyce, Chambers, Cooper, Banks, McCarthy, Evans, Walker, Aylott, McHale, Barrow-clough.



Kevin Godfrey (Orient)

First Division

MANCHESTER UTD (0) 1 (Stapleton)
EVERTON (1) 1 (Sharp) 40,451
Man. Utd: Bailey, Gidmen, Albiston, Wilkins, Moran, Buchan, Robson, McGarvey, Stapleton, McIlroy, Coppell.
Everton: Southall, Stevens, Ratcliffe, Higgins, Lyons, Irvine, McMahon, Richardson, Sharp, Eastoe, Lodge.

Third Division

READING (2) 2 (Dixon, Webb)
PORTSMOUTH (1) 1 (Tait) 4,018

Saturday, Jan. 9

First Division

MANCHESTER CITY (0) 1 (Francis)
STOKE (1) 1 (O'Callaghan) 31,941
Man. City: Corrigan, Ryan, McDonald, Reid, Bond, Caton, O'Neill, Reeves, Francis, Hartford, Hutchison.

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to SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Patrick Gibbons of London, who wins our Special Prize of £10. He writes:

RIGHT DECISION, GALVIN



TONY Galvin has made the right decision to turn down England and make himself available for the Republic of Ireland.

He has proved himself a valuable member of the Spurs' squad over the past year and has developed into one of the best left-sided midfield players in the country, fully justifying Keith Burkinshaw's faith in him.

His work rate is tremendous. One moment he is attacking down the flanks, the next he is back helping his defenders.

His decision is even more justified by the state of Glenn Hoddle's international career.

Because if Glenn Hoddle cannot command a regular place with England, what chance has Tony Galvin got?

● I think the Republic will play Galvin further forward, almost as an orthodox winger. Otherwise he'll be competing with Liam Brady for a place.

Stop moaning — take action

WHAT I can't understand about football is what clubs will and won't do.

What they will do is go splashing hundreds of thousands of pounds on players who are not worth it.

Then managers start moaning about matches being postponed because of snow and ice.

All they have to do is follow Everton's and Manchester City's example by getting undersoil heating.

This only costs about £50,000, which is a small sum for the big clubs.

MARTIN REYNOLDS, COSELEY.

● Fine — but even when the 'undersoil' clubs have played, their attendances have been poor.

Three for goals

AS it is generally agreed that England hasn't any world-class defenders at its disposal it seems only common-sense that Ron Greenwood will have to concentrate on his attack if England are to do well in Spain.

Thus his forward line will have to be a mixture of skill, experience and ability to score goals.

The front three that fit that description are Cyrille Regis, Kevin Keegan and Steve Coppell.

With those three working in harness there is a chance of glory for Ron and England next summer.

JOEY BERNSTEIN, CANTERBURY.

● We may just see that combination against Northern Ireland later this month.

'Superb' Bremner

CONGRATULATIONS to Billy Bremner who has done a superb job at Belle Vue since he joined Doncaster.

He has lifted Rovers from the foot of the Fourth Division to the top seven in the Third, winning promotion last season.

Billy is a good tactician and this shows in his latest buy Terry Cooper, who has made the Rovers defence more secure.

ANDREW ALLINSON, WHEATLEY.

● Billy (below) always has been a winner, though, and like many of his former Leeds team-mates is proving to be a winner as a manager.



Pen-pal

I'm an 11-year-old girl who is English and is living in Norway. I would like to correspond with an English boy or girl supporting Arsenal or West Ham.

TINA DAVIS, GROTNESARMEN 15, 4052 ROEYNEBERG, NORWAY.

Hollins example

I WAS very pleased to see John Hollins' "No Smoking" advert on television. All he says is very true.

I believe that part of John's success as a footballer is due to not smoking. I hope this serves as an example to others.

I was disgusted to find out that Northern Ireland's World Cup mascot smokes.

SIMON HOLMES, PLYMOUTH.

● Youngsters couldn't have a better example than John Hollins — on or off the field.

Mariner or Francis?

I WAS very sad to read about the way John Bond criticised Paul Mariner.

He wrote that England needed Trevor Francis up front instead of the Ipswich centre-forward.

When Francis plays for England he does not seem to play well — and we end up losing! Mariner scored three goals during this World Cup campaign.

I thought Paul Mariner played brilliantly against Hungary yet he was criticised for missing a few chances. He ought to be praised more because he did score that vital goal which takes us to Spain.

J. C. HAWKINS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

● Maybe Bond was just a little bit biased...

Just relax

WITH England heading for the greatest showpiece in soccer, there seems to be a lot of advice flooding in from the media, suggesting Ron Greenwood to find the right blend in the team before travelling to sunny Spain.

Everyone is saying that England will either be super heroes or super flops.

With such powerful sides as Brazil, Argentina and West Germany in the soccer world at the moment, realistically England don't stand that much of a chance.

So my advice would be to relax and go out and enjoy this soccer spectacle.

SHOUVICK GHOSH, READING.

● I don't think many England fans, realistically, think England will pull up any trees in Spain. Reaching the second phase will be some sort of success.

Pen-pal

I'm a 12-year-old Australian boy and I'd like a pen-pal in England, preferably an Arsenal supporter.

DAVID PRITCHARD, 11 FOXALL GARDENS, FOXALL STREET, HOLDER, 2611 CANBERRA A.C.T., AUSTRALIA.

Seed 'Giants'

IT'S a bad state of affairs when First Division clubs knock out other First Division clubs in the Third Round of the F.A. Cup.

Division One teams should be seeded in the Third Round to ensure the strongest teams go through.

I know this defies tradition and would put an end to giantkillers, but financially it makes sense.

MICHAEL KIDD, SOUTH AFRICA.

● The F.A. Cup is the world's greatest domestic Cup competition because of its format. Long may it stay that way.

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Herd and son

Have a father and son ever played together in the same Football League team?

KUA TAI CHYE, WEST MALAYSIA

● I know of at least one such case, Kua. That was in 1951 — when David Herd began his first-class career playing alongside his father, Alec Herd, for Stockport County.

David — a God-son of Sir Matt Busby, with whom his father played for Manchester City before the War — moved on to win Scottish caps and score many goals for Arsenal, Manchester United, and Stoke.

Greaves' record

How many League goals did Jimmy Greaves score?

J. MCLEARY, HORSHAM

● They totted-up to 357 — and every one scored in a First Division game.

Broken-down into clubs... that 357 consisted of 124 for Chelsea; a club-record 220 for Spurs; and a final 13 for West Ham.

Greaves also scored nine goals for AC Milan in the Italian League; 44 for England; 13 for England Under-23; 35 in the F.A. Cup; seven in the League Cup; 13 in European competitions; and 13 in other assorted first-class games... 491 in the top grade all told.

Double appearance

Has anyone ever played in both an F.A. Cup Final and a Scottish F.A. Cup Final?

MARK APOSTOL, GREECE

● There was one player who did even better, Mark — playing in the Finals of the national Cups of Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, and Eire. And all but the last brought winners' medals, at that.

He was Scottish international striker Jimmy Delaney — and he gained those medals with Celtic (1937), Manchester United (1948), Derry City (1954), and Cork Athletic (1956).

Jimmy, 45 years old when he played in his last Final, is one of nearly 20 men who've played in winning F.A. Cup teams in England and Scotland.

SHORT PASSES

● Lincoln's record gate is 23,196 — when they lost 0-3 to Derby in a League Cup Fourth Round replay on 15th November, 1967.

(PETER HEATH, Lincoln)

● Leeds won the old Fairs Cup twice — beating Ferencvaros 1-0 on aggregate in 1968; and Juventus 3-3 (away goals rule) in 1971.

(ANDREW GREEN, Nottingham)

Short Passes are replies to readers' letters.

MENOTTI TO GO...LATER

AS Argentina prepare to defend their World Cup, rumours have been circulating that manager César Menotti may be replaced.

The whisper is that Alfredo di Stéfano is ready to take over. Di Stéfano returned to his native Buenos Aires to coach River Plate last year and they won the National Championship.

In a country where there is a constant power struggle, Menotti has been deemed lately to have been too outspoken.

What El Flaco (the thin one) has in his favour, of course, is that he led Argentina to victory in 1978; his system of football and communication with 'difficult' Argentine players is highly respected.

Menotti will retire from the international scene after the '82 Finals — there is little or

no danger of him losing his job now, despite the rumours.

A change of manager now would be fatal for Argentina. One only has to look back to 1974 when Sivori was replaced by Cap weeks before leaving for West Germany.

A squad rich in players (Kempes, Ayala, Perfumo, Babington, Houseman, Carnevali) did not play to its potential following the internal troubles and came nowhere.

The likely successor to Menotti is the FC Oeste manager Carlos Griguol. He's thought to be the best man for the job by far and his team of 'nobodies' has done extremely well, runners-up in the Metropolitan and National Championships last year.



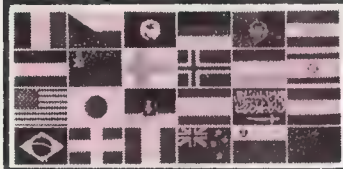
City stars offered to Barcelona

THE news that Bernd Schuster was liable to miss the rest of the season and that Barcelona were looking to sign a stop-gap foreign replacement led to a flurry of activity among Europe's 'intermediaries' — the men who act as go-betweens in transfer deals.

Within 48 hours Barcelona had been offered Germans Klaus Allofs and Karl-Heinz Forster; four Argentinians; an Englishman and a Scotsman.

The two British players were both from the same club — Manchester City's Kevin Reeves and Tommy Hutchison.

WORLD WIDE



Compiled by CHRIS DAVIES

FORMER Dutch international Wim Van Hanegem, now with Feyenoord, told *Voetbal International* magazine in Holland that he plans to retire at the end of the season.

"I'll be 38 by then," he said. But added: "If I change my mind I'll deny I ever said all this to you!"

AC MILAN went into the New Year with a dismal record. Joe Jordan was joint top scorer — now the bad news... he'd scored only one goal, along with Buriani Ruben and an own-goal. Milan had a W1 D6 L5 record after 12 games with three goals scored and ten conceded.

MARADONA AGAIN

ARGENTINA superstar Diego Maradona has been chosen as the Americas' Footballer of the Year for 1981, retaining his title.

A panel of 136 journalists from 21 countries in South, Central and North America gave Maradona 572 votes, ahead of Brazil's Zico (524) and Peru's Julio Uribe (131).

The poll, organised by the Argentinian magazine *El Grafico*, is organised on the lines of the European Player of the Year award, where each journalist has five votes, his first choice receiving five points down to one for fifth choice.

Former Birmingham City full-back Alberto Tarantini, now with River Plate, finished joint 36th with three votes.



HUNGARY'S 34-year-old striker Laszlo Fazekas relaxes at home in Belgium with his wife Judit. Fazekas has been joined at Antwerp FC by another Hungarian, 31-year-old Sandor Pinter, who has 39 caps.

News flashes

● The amateurs of the Soviet Union seem to have become wise to a few Capitalist ideas. When the USSR played a friendly in Cadiz against the local club side, striker Oleg Blokhin asked Spanish TV for £50 for an interview.

● Fewer people are watching soccer in West Germany. Figures at the

halfway stage this season show an average of 22,451 in the Bundesliga, the lowest figure since 1974.

● Maurizio Montesi of Lazio was one of the players involved in the infamous Italian Bribery Scandal a couple of years ago. Now the 24-year-old has been arrested for possessing drugs.

● Johnny Rep, 32, the Dutch international striker of St-Etienne, has said he'd like to play in Italy next season.

● The Yugoslav authorities are investigating allegations that 19 referees have accepted quantities ranging from £2,500 to £7,000 for 'bending' key matches.

Champions Spain

ACCORDING to an Argentinian television station, Spain will win the 1982 World Cup.

They base their conclusion on the fact that all hosts whose name starts with a vowel have won the World Cup previously.

Uruguay... Italy... England... Argentina... confused? Well, the Argentinians use the Spanish spelling, of course, and Spain is *Espana* while West Germany is *Alemania*!

THE wife of a fanatical Flamengo supporter sued her husband for divorce, saying: "He only thinks about the club and travels everywhere with them."

"The only reason he didn't go to Tokyo to see them play Liverpool was that he couldn't afford the fare."

"Not true," countered the husband. "Her real complaint was that I forgot our wedding anniversary."

"And when was that?" asked the judge.

"The day we beat Vasco 3-1!" the husband replied.

Cunningham inquest

REAL MADRID have now opened an official investigation into the circumstances leading to Laurie Cunningham's fourth operation in the last 12 months.

As you may have read, Laurie was within hours of making his first League appearance of the season after recovering from a ligament operation when he was taken back into the operating theatre for a cartilage operation.

Real's directors now want to know (a) why Laurie's cartilage problem wasn't spotted earlier and (b) why manager Vujadin Boskov was anxiously awaiting Laurie's arrival at the team's hotel, completely unaware that he'd been taken to hospital for another operation!

AT 32, Italian star Franco Causio is having a second lease of life.

Rejected by both Juventus and national manager Enzo Bearzot, the winger is having one of his best-ever seasons with Udinese, and weekly points awarded by journalists put Causio at the top of the First Division list as the most consistent player.

The Italian Press are saying Bearzot should recall Causio to the national team, especially as Roberto Bettega has a nasty injury which, the grapevine says, could even force him to miss the World Cup Finals.

TIM'S TIP

THE favourites to win the 1982 World Cup are West Germany (left), according to Tim, Peru's Brazilian manager.

Tim reached this conclusion following a European study tour, when he considered the Germans to be "the most technically gifted and physically well prepared players" he had seen.

A surprise selection of the team which could cause a lot of trouble was Cameroon, who are: "a strong and dangerous team."

Peru will be calling their players together in mid-January and they will play three games in Europe and three in Peru prior to the World Cup.



World Cup
stars to watch

DIEGO MARADONA

ARGENTINA

HES the world's first ten-million-dollar footballer. He's scored 144 goals in 206 Argentine League matches. He captained his country to victory in the 1979 World Youth Tournament, and has gone on to score 13 goals in 29 international matches with the Argentine 'A' team. He's twice been voted South American Footballer of the Year. And the date on Diego Maradona's birth certificate reads October 30th, 1960 — he's only 21.

But Maradona's talent is more than just statistics. The chunky number 10 is rated the biggest genius to hit football since the great Pele, and is one of the few players in the world who can consistently produce something new, exciting and unexpected.

Watch how he starts moves in midfield with simple one-touch control and intelligent one-tuos before unleashing his explosive talents in the opponents' area.

Maradona was always destined for stardom. At 15 he was playing First Division football.

At 16 he made his international debut against Hungary.

At 17 he narrowly missed playing in the 1978 World Cup.

At 18 he was voted best player in the World Youth Tournament.

At 19 he became the youngest player ever to score 100 League goals in Argentina, and led Argentinos Juniors to second place in the

Metropolitan Championship — the highest placing in the history of the club.

At 20, Boca Juniors agreed to pay four million dollars to have him on a year's loan, and six million more if they wanted to buy him outright.

And Diego promptly led Boca to triumph in the Metropolitan Championship. At 21, he's already topped the Argentine scoring charts a record five times, and is determined to add a World Cup to his list of trophies, despite a recent disagreement with manager Cesar Menotti, when he refused to play in a series of friendlies. Diego will be there in Spain, though.

SHOOT!



Arsenal's Brian Talbot is shrugged aside by the challenge of Notts County defender Pedro Richards.

SHOOT!

TAKE A BREAK IT'S

QUIZ TIME

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Manchester City striker Phil Boyer has played League football for York City, Bournemouth, Norwich City and Southampton. He has gained one full cap for England.
2. Leeds United's worst defeat was 8-1 by Stoke City in the First Division in August, 1934.

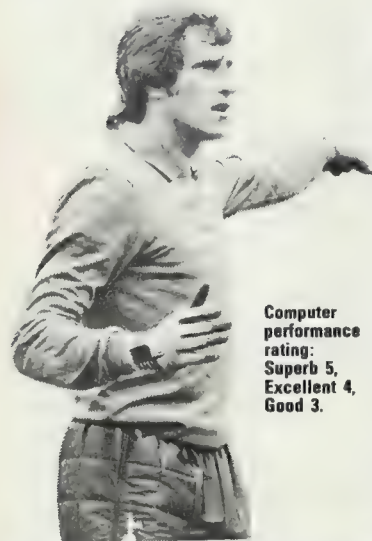
3. The edge of the penalty-area is 18 yards from the goal-line.
4. Match of the Day presenter Jimmy Hill was a professional footballer for West Ham.
5. Sheffield United were founded before rivals Sheffield Wednesday.

COMPUTER PUZZLE

RAY CLEMENCE

Programme this star player by plugging the gaps in his career.

1. He began his League career with . . . , where he played 48 games.
2. He was then transferred to Liverpool in June, . . . , for around £20,000.
3. Ray (below) played his first-ever F.A. Cup Final against . . . in 1970-71.
4. Clemence made his full England debut in November, 1972, against
5. After 470 League appearances, Ray joined Tottenham and replaced . . . as number one 'keeper at White Hart Lane.



Computer performance rating: Superb 5, Excellent 4, Good 3.



INTERNATIONALS



1. Is it true to say Wales have never beaten England at Wembley?
2. Is Martin O'Neill (above) of Manchester City the captain of the Northern Ireland international side?
3. Kenny Dalglish made his full Scotland debut against Belgium, Holland or Sweden in November, 1971?
4. Bryan Robson of Manchester United has scored one goal for England. Was it against Switzerland, Norway or Hungary?
5. Liverpool's Mark Lawrenson is an international player for which country?

TRANSFERS

1. Francois van der Elst (left) was transferred from which North American Soccer League club to West Ham for around £400,000 recently?
2. Which Stoke City player was sold to Everton for £700,000 in January?
3. The Potteries club spent some of that money on securing the services of which England international player?
4. Ian Bowyer was transferred from Sunderland to which First Division club for £45,000?
5. After a loan period, John Deehan signed for Norwich City. From which club did manager Ken Brown sign him?

TROPHIES

1. Jeff Astle scored the only goal of the 1965-66, 1966-67 or 1967-68 F.A. Cup or League Cup Final for West Bromwich Albion against Everton at Wembley?
2. Can you name the only club to appear in three successive F.A. Cup Finals at Wembley?
3. Which two clubs competed for this season's Scottish League Cup Final at Hampden?
4. How many countries have won the World Cup trophy . . . and can you name them?

ON THE BALL ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (1) Has. (3) Kennedy. (5) Butterworth. (7) Droy. (8) Post. (9) Tar. (13) Elk. (14) Echo. (15) Alex. (18) Notts County. (19) Crombie. (20) Mad.
DOWN:— (1) Hansen. (2) Sherwood. (3) Kite. (4) Yorath. (5) Brocken. (6) Hateley. (7) Due. (10) Rix. (11) Celtic. (12) Chisholm. (16) Lobbed. (17) Ante.

ANSWERS

TRANSFERS: 1. The Cosmos. 2. Adrian Heath. 3. Dave Watson from Southampton. 4. Nottingham Forest. 5. West Bromwich Albion.
TROPHIES: 1. 1967-68 F.A. Cup Final. 2. Arsenal. 3. Rangers and Dundee United. 4. Six — Uruguay, Italy, West Germany, Brazil, England and Argentina.
INTERNATIONALS: 1. No — Wales won 1-0 in 1977. 2. Yes. 3. Belgium. 4. Switzerland. 5. Eire.
TRUE OR FALSE: 1. True. 2. True. 3. True. 4. False — he played for Fulham and Brentford. 5. False — Wednesday were first.
COMPUTER PUZZLE: 1. Scunthorpe. 2. 1967. 3. Arsenal. 4. Wales. 5. Milla Aleksi.

Two players who've made the big breakthrough for Celtic

TWENTY-FOUR-YEAR-OLD striker George McCluskey has emerged from the shadows this season to become one of the home-based Scots challenging for a World Cup spot this summer.

That, after last season, when he spent most of his time on the substitute's bench as scoring protegee Charlie Nicholas teamed up with Frank McGarvey in the Celtic first team.

Now, though, the roles have been reversed — Nicholas spent most of this term in the reserves before his recent leg break as McCluskey became the number one choice to partner the former Liverpool striker.

'Chance'

Explains McCluskey: "Last season it was hard to get into the team because Charlie and Frank were scoring so many goals. But this term I got a chance when Nicholas was ill.

"He missed just the one game, against St Mirren in the League Cup, and I came in and scored a hat-trick.

"I've been able to hold my place ever since. But I know that I have to stay on my toes. The challenge is there all the time and I think that has helped to make me a better player."

McCluskey admits that he has not always fulfilled his massive potential — but reckons the fierce competition at Celtic Park has now sharpened his finishing.

He admits: "It was difficult last season, sitting on the bench for so long and knowing that only an

injury to one of the others would get me into the team.

"I did get in eventually but then was injured myself and that was that until I got the chance at Love Street.

"I have managed to continue scoring since then and to stay in the team.

"In fact, both Frank and I were named as the over-age players in the last qualifying game the Scotland Under-21 team had.

"We drew with Denmark in Aarhus and that was enough to take us into the Quarter-Finals.



McCLUSKEY —Helped by Kenny Dalglish

"It was good experience and nice to be picked by Mr Stein. But, having said that, I know the competition for World Cup places is very strong.

"I'm not thinking about it too much because Scotland have a lot of strikers who I expect to be ahead of me.

"I mean, Kenny Dalglish will be there, that's obvious. He is a marvellous player. I know that because I played with him at Celtic Park and he helped me a lot when I was first breaking through.

"Here at home we have Paul Sturrock of Dundee United who

has had a great season. He is so quick with a tremendous positional sense.

"Then you also have Steve Archibald, Alan Brazil, Andy Gray and Frank McGarvey as well. It is hard for anyone to break into that kind of company.

"We all have to hope that we can hit good form, score goals and do that when Jock Stein is watching us.

"Really, though, what I want to do most is help Celtic take the title again.

"We missed out on the League Cup and that was a big disappointment, especially for me because that is the one medal I haven't won.

"But we lead the Premier Division now and our target is a League and Cup double. That is not beyond us."



BONNER —Praised by Dino Zoff and Liam Brady

ITALY's World Cup goalkeeper Dino Zoff ran the length of the field to shake hands with Celtic's young Irish number one Pat Bonner after this season's European Cup collision in Turin.

"Juventus won 2-1 on aggregate, but it would have been much more but for the Celtic goalkeeper," says Zoff.

"I think you could say I know a bit about goalkeeping and goalkeepers and I would say that Celtic are very fortunate to have a cap-

able man in such a difficult and important position.

"It didn't surprise me that Bonner played so well against us. We had been told by Liam Brady that he was a good player.

"Liam told us he trained alongside Bonner for the Republic of Ireland team. He warned us that his agility was brilliant and that he had good hands."

Bonner, in his second season at Celtic, is a remarkable young man. He has ousted former England Under-21 goalkeeper Peter Latchford from the position at Parkhead this season and there seems no way back to the Celtic first team

for the likeable Englishman.

"Peter keeps me on my toes," says Pat. "I can't afford to have an off day with such a capable goalkeeper waiting to step in and take my place.

"Actually, we are the best of friends. We train together and pass on some valuable hints from time to time."

Bonner's astonishing consistency is pushing Celtic towards their second successive Premier Division Championship victory and he is also set for a breakthrough on the international front.

One-Sided

He has already played for the full Republic of Ireland team in a friendly against Poland in Poznan where, unfortunately, he was beaten three times in a one-sided affair.

"I could have had a happier debut, I suppose," says Pat, "but it has whetted my appetite for soccer at full international level and I'd like another chance.

"Bolton's Jim McDonagh is the man in possession at the moment, but I'll be pushing my claim in the coming months."

**PART
TWO**
of the
fascinating
history of
the World
Cup.

ENGLAND

BRAZIL 1950

THE World Cup returned after a 12-year absence, but with Europe still decimated by the effects of the War, neutral South America was the logical choice of venue.

Brazil was elected as host nation for the 1950 tournament, and immediately set about building the magnificent 200,000 capacity Maracana Stadium in Rio.

The four British nations had returned to FIFA in 1946, and it was decided the first two nations in the Home Internationals of that year would qualify for Brazil.

Scotland, however, declared they would only go if they finished first.

England won by a single goal at Hampden Park to finish in pole position and Scotland stubbornly refused to participate in the World Cup Finals.

Other nations would be missing, too. Argentina, Czechoslovakia,

France, Turkey, Germany, Austria, Hungary and Russia would all be conspicuous by their absence.

Thirteen teams competed in the 1950 World Cup Finals, and England were grouped with Spain, Chile and the United States.

With players of the calibre of Matthews, Mortensen, Wright, Ramsey, Finney and Mannion among their numbers, England were not surprisingly ranked among the favourites.

They lived up to those expectations in their opening game, beating Chile 2-0 in Rio with goals from Stan Mortensen and Wilf Mannion.

But then was to come the greatest shock in the history of English football — England 0 United States 1.

With the same team which had overcome Chile, England were expected to crush the side beaten so comprehensively by a Football Association XI only weeks earlier.

But on the uneven surface of Belo Horizonte, the Americans snatched a 37th minute lead



Bert Williams saves against the Americans at Belo Horizonte, but he couldn't prevent England sliding to their most embarrassing defeat.

through Gaetjens and steadfastly held out for the rest of the game.

At the final whistle, the Americans were carried shoulder high from the pitch. The disgraced Englishmen made a less spectacular exit.

For their final game, England had to beat Spain in Rio to qualify for the last four. But a header from Zarra was enough to beat the dispirited English. Spain had qualified from Group III.

They were joined by Brazil,

Sweden and Uruguay for a final group. It is often forgotten that there was no World Cup Final in 1950, but as the final game of the League system would decide the eventual winner in any case, it was much the same thing.

Brazil, the host nation, were now overwhelming favourites to take their first World Cup.

Having thrashed Sweden 7-1 in Sao Paulo, with four goals from the brilliant Ademir, it was not surprising the fanatical fans were already proclaiming their side as World Champions.

Their confidence was further boosted when Spain held Uruguay to a 2-2 draw. Brazil, meanwhile,

Battle of Berne... and the Magyars go crashing

SWITZERLAND 1954

SWITZERLAND were elected as hosts for the 1954 Finals, but never had there been a greater favourite to capture the title than Hungary — the legendary Mighty Magyars.

Just a year earlier they had shocked British soccer out of its complacency by beating England 6-3 at Wembley and then 7-1 in Budapest.

Now the winners of the 1952 Olympic gold had come to Switzerland to claim their rightful crown.

Once again, Britain were allowed two entrants. England again took first place in the Home Internationals, but this time runners-up Scotland agreed to participate as well.

There were 16 nations competing in the Finals, grouped into four equal pools.

Each pool had two seeded teams, who did not have to face each other, with two teams from each qualifying for the Quarter-Finals.

England, with Italy, were seeded



Nandor Hidegkuti heads home for Hungary in the Semi-Final v Uruguay.

in Pool Four against Belgium and host nation Switzerland.

Despite being held to a 4-4 draw by Belgium, Walter Winterbottom's men finished top of their pool by beating the Swiss 2-0.

Scotland, however, had a somewhat mediocre side, with only Tommy Docherty and Willie Ormond of any real note.

Grouped with defending Champions Uruguay and the

strong Czechs and Austrians, they were given little chance.

It came as something of a surprise, then, when they lost only 1-0 to Austria.

But (shades of Argentina) within hours, manager Andy Beattie announced he would give up the job immediately after the Scots' next game — against Uruguay.

The Scottish officials simply would not give their manager a free hand in running his side.

In any event, they were hammered 7-0 by the magical Uruguayans and finished bottom of their Pool.

Uruguay and Austria cruised through with maximum points, while in Pool One Brazil and Yugoslavia ensured their places in the Quarter-Finals.

But it was in Pool Two where all the action was taking place. Hungary were serving up notice of what was to come, and against the luckless Koreans ran in nine goals without reply.

They followed that up by belting the Germans 8-3, the only black spot being the loss of Ferenc Puskas following a kick on the ankle by the big German stopper



West Germany (white shirts) pulled off one of the greatest shocks of all against the Mighty Magyars.

Werner Liebrich.

It was to prove a most significant injury.

Despite that setback, the Germans still managed to reach the last eight, beating the Turks 4-1 and then again 7-2 in a play-off.

England were drawn against Uruguay for the Quarter-Final tie in Basle.

Let down by the goalkeeping of Gil Merrick, England went out 4-2.

Germany beat Yugoslavia 2-0 while the Swiss bowed out to the Austrians by an almost unbelievable final score of 7-5.

Yet once again it was the Hungarians who made the news — but this time for all the wrong reasons.

DISASTER

Brazil go close against Argentina in the 'Final' of the 1950 World Cup in Rio.

beat those same Spaniards 6-1. Jair and Chico netted two apiece this time.

Uruguay beat Sweden 3-2, which meant that Brazil needed just a point from their final game against their deadly South American rivals at the Maracana.

200,000 fanatics clambered over the rubble of the not quite completed Maracana, to hear the Governor of Rio proclaim the Brazilians as masters of the world before the game had even kicked-off!

As expected, Brazil threw everything into attack, with Jair, Ademir and Zizinho all in top form.



Only the brilliance of Maspoli in the Uruguayan goal kept them at bay and at half-time the scoresheet remained blank.

But two minutes after the restart, the Brazilians finally forced the goal their relentless pressure had warranted, Friaça scoring from close range.

Yet now the Uruguayans were instilled with battle, their heroics of the first-half flushing them with confidence.

Schiaffino equalised with 65 minutes of the game gone, and now it was the Brazilians who were coming under the greater pressure.

Eleven minutes from time the Brazilians were again caught out. Ghiggia collected the ball, ran on through the disorganised Brazilian defence and hammered the ball home.

Uruguay had won 2-1 and had captured the World Cup for the second time.

4th WORLD CUP Brazil, 1950

GROUP 1

Brazil	(1)4	Mexico	(0)0
Yugoslavia	(3)3	Switzerland	(0)0
Yugoslavia	(2)4	Mexico	(0)1
Brazil	(2)2	Switzerland	(1)2
Brazil	(1)2	Yugoslavia	(0)0
Switzerland	(2)2	Mexico	(0)1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	1	0	8	2	5
Yugoslavia	3	2	0	1	7	3	4
Switzerland	3	1	1	1	4	6	3
Mexico	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

GROUP 2

Spain	(0)3	USA	(1)1
-------	------	-----	------

England	(1)2	Chile	(0)0
USA	(1)1	England	(0)0
Spain	(2)2	Chile	(0)0
Spain	(0)1	England	(0)0
Chile	(2)5	USA	(0)2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	3	0	0	6	1	6
England	3	1	0	2	2	2	2
Chile	3	1	0	2	5	6	2
USA	3	1	0	2	4	8	2

GROUP 3

Sweden	(2)3	Italy	(1)2
Sweden	(2)2	Paraguay	(1)2

Italy

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	2	1	1	0	5	4	3
Italy	2	1	0	1	4	3	2
Paraguay	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

GROUP 4

GROUP 4							
Uruguay	(4)8	Bolivia					(0)0
		P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Uruguay		1	1	0	0	8	0 2
Bolivia		1	0	0	1	0	8 0

FINAL POOL

Uruguay	(1)2	Spain	(2)2
Brazil	(3)7	Sweden	(0)1

Uruguay

Brazil	(3)6	Spain	(0)1
Sweden	(2)3	Spain	(0)1
Uruguay	(0)2	Brazil	(0)1

P W D L F A Pts

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	3	2	1	0	7	5	5
Brazil	3	2	0	1	14	4	4
Sweden	3	1	0	2	6	11	2
Spain	3	0	1	2	4	11	1

Uruguay: Maspoli; Gonzales (M), Tejera; Gambetta, Varela (capt), Andrade; Ghiggia, Perez, Miguez, Schiaffino, Moran
Brazil: Barbosa; Augusto (capt), Juvenal; Bauer, Danilo, Bigode; Friaça, Zizinho, Ademir, Jair, Chico

5th WORLD CUP Switzerland, 1954

GROUP 1

Yugoslavia	(1)1	France	(0)0
Brazil	(4)5	Mexico	(0)0
France	(1)3	Mexico	(0)2
Brazil	(0)1	Yugoslavia	(0)1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	2	1	1	0	6	1	3
Yugoslavia	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
France	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Mexico	2	0	0	2	2	8	0

GROUP 2

Hungary	(4)9	S Korea	(0)0
W Germany	(1)4	Turkey	(1)1
Hungary	(3)8	W Germany	(1)3
Turkey	(4)7	South Korea	(1)1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
West Germany	2	1	0	1	7	9	2
Turkey	2	1	0	1	8	4	2
South Korea	2	0	0	2	0	16	0

GROUP 3

Austria	(1)1	Scotland	(0)0
Uruguay	(0)2	Czech	(0)0
Austria	(4)5	Czech	(0)0
Uruguay	(2)7	Scotland	(0)0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	9	0	4
Austria	2	2	0	0	6	0	4
Czechoslovakia	2	0	0	2	0	7	0
Scotland	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

GROUP 4

England	(2)3	4	Belgium	(1)3	4
Switzerland	(1)2	2	Italy	(1)1	1
England	(1)2	2	Switzerland	(0)0	0
Italy	(1)4	4	Belgium	(0)1	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	1	1	0	6	4	3
Italy	2	1	0	1	5	3	2
Switzerland	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Belgium	2	0	1	1	5	8	1

Play-off

Switzerland	(1)4	Italy	(0)1
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QUARTER-FINALS

W Germany	(1)2	Yugoslavia	(0)0
Hungary	(2)4	Brazil	(1)2
Austria	(5)7	Switzerland	(4)5
Uruguay	(2)4	England	(1)2

SEMI-FINALS

W Germany	(1)6	Austria	(0)1
Hungary	(1)2	Uruguay	(0)2

THIRD PLACE MATCH: Zurich

Austria	(1)3	Uruguay	(1)1
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FINAL: Berne 4.7.54 Attendance 55,000
W Germany (2)3 Hungary (2)2
W Germany: Turek; Posipal, Kohlmeyer; Eckel, Liebrich, Mai, Rahn, Morlock, Walter (O), Walter (F) (capt), Schaefer
Hungary: Grosics; Buzansky, Lantos; Boszik, Lorant, Zakarias; Czibor, Kocsis, Hidegkuti, Puskas (capt), Toth (J)



Their clash with Brazil has become known as the Battle of Berne, hardly surprising when one considers that three were sent-off and a fearful brawl followed in the dressing rooms after the game.

Hungary won 4-2, with the great Hidegkuti scoring twice. Josef Boszik, Nilton Santos and Humberto Tozzi were all sent off by English referee Arthur Ellis in a brutal game, and the injured Ferenc Puskas would later be accused of striking Pinheiro with a bottle.

By the time of the Semi-Final Puskas was still sidelined by his ankle injury. So Uruguay had some hope against the Hungarians in their Semi-Final at Lausanne.

Hungary streaked into the lead with goals from Czibor and Hidegkuti, but the South Americans fought back bravely to send the game into extra time thanks to two goals from Hohberg.

But two headed goals from Kocsis finally settled the tie and the reign of Uruguay had been ended by one of the most talented teams the world had ever seen.

Meanwhile in Basle, the much fancied Austrians lost 6-1 to Germany. The Walter brothers — Fritz and Otmir — scored two goals apiece but the great ease with which Sepp Herberger's team had won was soon forgotten by the experts who took the Hungarians to cruise home in the Final.

Having crushed the Germans 8-3 earlier in the competition, there seemed no way the Hungarians could lose, particularly when Puskas declared himself fit again.

There were 60,000 fans in the Wankdorf Stadium in Berne for the Final, half of them German, but within eight minutes Hungary were two-up thanks to Puskas and Czibor.

Another rout seemed imminent, but amazingly the Germans pulled level within another eight minutes with goals from Morlock and Rahn.

Clearly all was not well for Hungary, and Puskas evidently was not fit. He was reduced to a virtual passenger by half-time still troubled by that kick from Liebrich.

The Hungarians threw everything at the Germans in search of one more goal, but with

12 minutes to go it was a shot from Rahn which captured the World Cup for the Germans.

The reign of the Mighty Magyars had come to a sudden and unforeseen end.

NEXT WEEK:
Brilliant Brazil and
a lad called Pele

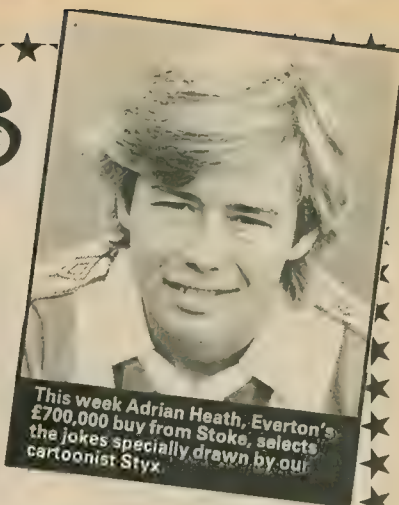
FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"£50,000, £75,000, £100,000, £200,000, £500."



"Are the hairs on his chest supposed to stand up when you switch on?"



This week Adrian Heath, Everton's £700,000 buy from Stoke, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"I've got some good news. You've won the pools."

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PETER HOLTOM F105

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THE James gang strikes again! This time it's not in the Far West of the United States . . . but in football-crazy South Wales. Robbie and Leighton James are providing a large slice of the firepower in Swansea City's raid for the League Championship.

There is no family relationship between these two Welsh internationals — but they share the same brand of pace, exciting close control and fierce shooting. Their dazzling attacking skill is a key factor in Swansea's sensational season.

Leighton James, of course, has seen First Division action for Burnley, Derby County and Queens Park Rangers: Robbie James is the newcomer and

now he is looking just as much a matchwinner as Welsh football's best known forward.

Robbie James operates just behind the Leighton James-Alan Curtis-Bob Latchford strike trio — but he could end up with just as many goals. His midfield power is very much in the style of John Wark, whose plundering runs are so vital to Ipswich.

"I love the First Division. It's what I dreamt about as a

Leighton James (right) is an old hand in the First Division, but newcomer Robbie James (left) is revelling in life at the top.



JAMES GANG SHOOTING TO GLORY

16-year-old when I came into Swansea's side," says Robbie.

That was eight years ago when The Swans were re-election fodder: now they are Championship-chasers and James has stayed the course from bottom to top.

He recently scored in quickfire sequence against Birmingham City, Nottingham Forest and Aston Villa — plus a hat-trick against Worcester City in the Welsh Cup for good measure!

"I really felt in those games that I had arrived," he confesses. "It needed a chocking from manager John Toshack to get me going but there is no doubt that he was spot on when he had a go at me.

"My role on the right hand side involves defending as well as attacking and I was concentrating too much on the former. John Toshack's priority is attacking . . . and I wasn't doing enough of it. I pushed up more and the goals came.

"I know that I'm at my best when I'm going forward and the manager is always stressing the importance of making best use of your strengths. Now I'm enjoying the First Division much more."

He started this season with 312 League appearances: with his 25th birthday not until March, he can scale the heights of football appearance records.

Not even Terry Paine's all time record of 824 League games (713 for Southampton and 111 for Hereford) is beyond his reach. John Trollope's club best of 770 League games for Swindon is another target for James, who has never fancied playing for any club but Swansea.

'Landmarks'

"I want the record," states Robbie frankly. "There is nothing I would like more than to see my name in football history. Injuries play a great part in setting these landmarks but it is an exciting prospect. I'll just have to wait and see."

He is the classic example of a hometown player. Arsenal tried for him but he played one Combination game at Highbury seven years ago and was home on the next train. Aston Villa staged a special behind-closed-doors friendly largely to impress James . . . but he left with the rest of the Swansea team immediately afterwards knowing that he was returning to a poverty-stricken Vetch Field.

"I look at what is happening now and marvel," he admits. "Some days it is almost impossible to get into the club without people hunting for tickets. It's a far cry from the days when no one wanted to know us."

CYRILLE Regis is taking the 30-goal route to Spain, trying to earn his chance of World Cup glory the hard way.

Regis, as modest and unassuming off the field as he is fierce and aggressive on it, says he doesn't want to say too much about what he could do for England.

"After all, I've never played in a full international — never even been in the squad — so it's impossible to say how well I would get on," says the West Bromwich Albion striker.

What's not in question is that Regis, who has won England Under-21 and 'B' caps, would love the chance to find out whether the critics who are rating him the most likely lad to solve England's goalscoring problems could be right.

"There's no higher honour than playing for your country, and with the World Cup Finals coming up that's got to be everybody's ambition now," says the 24-year-old.

"But I know that to get that chance I have to earn it by scoring more goals. I have hit a purple

patch recently, but now I have to maintain that.

"When Ron Greenwood comes round to picking his squad for Spain he's going to look at current form. Who knows? By then someone else could be in the middle of a goal rush and grabbing all the headlines.

"I know the only way I can hope to be considered is to carry on

scoring goals for Albion for the rest of the season."

Though Regis says he is reluctant to set himself targets, if he does maintain his current form he's certain to break the 30-goal mark for the season — a feat achieved only by Francis Lee and Bob Latchford in the last 13 seasons.

It's hard to see how Greenwood could then ignore him.

So what's the reason for the Regis goal rush? Last season he totalled 17 goals — this term he reached that figure before the League programme was halfway through.

times out of ten the ball is in the net because you don't hesitate."

West Brom boss Ronnie Allen, who discovered Regis playing for Hayes in the Isthmian League, has also played a big part in Cyrille's success.

Albion skipper John Wile explains: "Our build-up suits him better. We're getting the front-runners clear now, and when Cyrille is clear there's no defender in the League can catch him."

Regis, six feet tall and 13 stone of solid muscle, says he owes a lot to a settled home life with wife Beverley and one-year-old son Robert. "I don't really analyse it

'I'VE JUST BEEN LUCKY'

says goal-ace Cyrille Regis

The powerfully built centre-forward, who came to England from his native French Guyana at the age of four, puts it down to two things.

"The basic reason is that Albion have been playing well and creating a lot of chances — and by the law of averages you are bound to put some of those away," he says.

"I just seem to have been lucky that a lot of the opportunities have fallen to me.

"A lot of it is in the mind as well. When things are going right you are full of confidence. The opening comes and you don't think 'that's a chance' but 'that's a goal'. Nine

like that but I suppose it must help. Being a father is just out of this world. It makes me so happy."

On the field, though, bearing down on goal, he looks anything but a contented family man.

"People tell me I'm more aggressive, but I don't think that's the right word. It's more a question of being more positive — back to the confidence thing again, and trying to be more consistent."

That takes him back to the magical 30-goal figure. "I just want to get as many as I can. If I can carry on the way I have been going I'm sure I can get there — and then people would have to take notice, wouldn't they?"



Regis powers home a header against Wolves.

GIBSON'S BATTLE

COLIN Gibson has fought one battle after another at Aston Villa. Now he is firmly established at left-back for the Champions and skipper Dennis Mortimer reckons he is having the finest season of his career without earning the recognition he deserves.

Easier to play for England if you're with a Southern club

The England Under-21 defender says: "That goes for so many of us in the Midlands. If Derek Statham had been playing for a London club instead of West Bromwich, he would have won a cap or two by now."

"Maybe I would have been in the full England squad myself . . . but if you don't play for a Southern club, everything is that much harder. The sportswriters look at England's left-back spot and don't see any player beyond Kenny Sansom."

"To read the newspapers, you could be forgiven for thinking that Ipswich won the First Division title last season — not us. As we struggled over the first half of the season, you could almost see them saying 'What did we tell you?'."

"The truth is that there is a long way to go yet. The spirit at Villa is tremendous and we can come with a run that will shake a lot of people. I still believe that next May will see us in the top five or six."

'Opinion'

And perhaps as European Champions? "We've certainly played to our Championship form in the European Cup. We've all got our own reasons why we haven't charged away in the League this season and my personal opinion is that we've lacked a killer punch attitude. You couldn't say that about our progress in Europe!"

Colin, who won his first Under-21 cap against Norway, is the type of committed competitor who could yet force his way into the World Cup squad reckoning. It will be hard going in Spain — and that is all he has known at Villa Park.

"There is only one answer to any challenge: you get your head down and fight for your place. I was particularly disappointed when Mike Pejic arrived because I thought I had been doing well enough — but I appreciated that I was young and inexperienced at the time."

"I set about improving my game to the standards that the manager wanted and last

season, as we won the Championship, I had almost an exact share of the games with Gary Williams. But for injuries and suspensions, I think that I would have played even more."

"Now I've got what I wanted: the job game after game. It meant a great deal to me to go through the opening half of the season without missing a match. The pressure is off me in the sense that I don't have to prove myself game by game."

"I know, of course, that if I have five or six indifferent games my head will be on the block . . . and that is how it should be. It's up to me to make sure it doesn't happen."

"I know that I'm playing the best football of my life and a lot of that is due to the more experienced players at Villa. When I was fighting to get into the side, they kept the encouragement coming and that helped my game and my resolve."

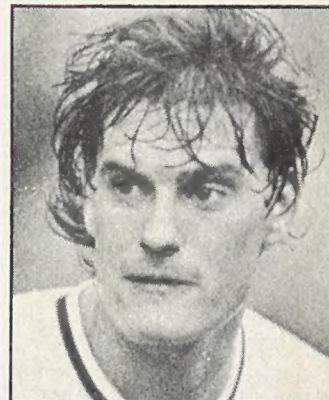
"As well as I feel I'm playing now, I'm sure I can go on from here. I have to if I'm going to convince those critics in the South that I'm England potential!"



NEXT WEEK

GLENN HODDLE

World Cup Super Star — or substitute? The stars give their verdicts.



The club chasing Scotland's 'keeper Alan Rough

Trevor Brooking's message to Ron Greenwood

'My future at Man. United' by Lou Macari

How top bosses cope with life under stress + Brian Clough's warning.

ALSO IN COLOUR . . .
Dave Watson (Stoke) + Swansea City and Shrewsbury Town team groups + World Cup star Kenny Dalglish + Super Focus on Neil Whatmore (Birmingham).

All this plus — Part Three of the fascinating World Cup story + Gary Shaw + Phil Thompson + Justin Fashanu + Ray Wilkins + Danny McGrain . . . and much, much more in next week's SHOOT.

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TONY GREALISH

Brighton

FULL NAME: Anthony Patrick Grealish
BIRTHPLACE: Paddington, London
BIRTHDATE: September 21, 1956
HEIGHT: 5ft 7½ins
WEIGHT: 11st 4lbs
MARRIED: Yes, to Pip
CHILDREN: None
CAR: Ford Capri
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Orient and Luton Town
JOB OR TRADE BEFORE TURNING PRO: None, joined Orient from school
NICKNAME: 'Paddy'
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Express
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Liam Brady
PLAYERS FOR THE FUTURE: Ricky Hill and Brian Stein of Luton
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Tottenham Hotspur
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: George Best
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Golf and tennis
OTHER SPORTS PERSON YOU MOST ADMIRE: Muhammad Ali
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Republic of Ireland v Belgium. We lost 1-0 in a crucial World Cup qualifier
BEST STADIUM PLAYED IN: Parc des Princes, Paris
FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: All kinds of pasta and white wine
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES . . . DISLIKES: Reading and music . . . Smoking

FAVOURITE SINGERS: All types, too numerous to mention
FAVOURITE ACTOR . . .
ACTRESS: Jack Nicholson and Barbra Streisand
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Portugal
BEST FILM SEEN RECENTLY: 'Midnight Express'
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Not The Nine O'clock News
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Relaxing or a game of golf



Ricky Hill (above) and Liam Brady (right), a player looking to reach the top and one who's already made it.



BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My parents and all the coaches at my various clubs
SUPERSTITIONS: None at the moment
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: 26 full caps for Republic of Ireland
PERSONAL AMBITION: To win some honours with Brighton
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Don't know. In the current recession I wouldn't have a lot of choice. Perhaps an airline pilot!
CAREER AFTER PLAYING: Don't know yet
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Henry Hog, a good friend I've not seen in a while

Tony Grealish